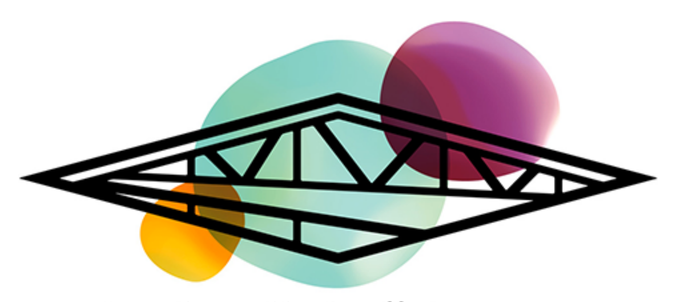


المرجع	IOR/R/15/1/478
العنوان	"ملف 53/7 D 8 (V شؤون الكويت والقبائل العربية"
التاريخ/ التواريخ	٢٢ سبتمبر ١٩٠٥-٢٠ يناير ١٩٠٧ (ميلادي)
لغة الكتابة	الإنجليزية و العربية في اللاتينية بالأحرف والعربية
الحجم والشكل	مجلد واحد (٢٦٤ ورقة)
المؤسسة المالكة	المكتبة البريطانية: أوراق خاصة وسجلات من مكتب الهند
حق النشر	المُلكية العامة

حول هذا السجلّ

يشتمل هذا الملف على مراسلات بين المسؤولين البريطانيين بخصوص الشؤون السياسية بالكويت والمناطق المجاورة لها. وتركز المراسلات على تطورات النزاع بين الشيخ عبد العزيز بن عبد الرحمن بن فيصل آل سعود وحاكم إمارة جبل شمر ورئيس الأسرة الحاكمة لقبيلة شمر (آل رشيد) عبد العزيز بن متعب، كما تتضمن تقريرًا يصف مقتل الشيخ عبد العزيز على يد قوات ابن سعود (الورقة ١٣٥).

تتناول المراسلات كذلك العلاقات بين الشيخ مبارك الصباح (حاكم الكويت) والإمبراطورية العثمانية، ويحتوي الملف على نسخ من المراسلات بين الشيخ مبارك والمسؤولين البريطانيين حول هذا الموضوع. وتتضمن الورقة ١١٦ رسالة من الشيخ مبارك إلى اللورد جورج ناثانيل كورزون يعبر عن تعازيه لوفاة زوجة كورزون (ماري فيكتوريا كورزون).

ويضم الملف في الصفحات ١٢-١٧ برقية أرسلها حاكم قطر الشيخ جاسم بن محمد آل ثاني بالنيابة عن ابن سعود إلى السلطان عبد الحميد الثاني. كما يحتوي الملف على نسخ من البرقية مكتوبة بحروف

عربية و نسخة إنجليزية مع النسخة العربية الأصلية. كما يحتوي الملف أيضًا على تقرير كتبه ستيوارت جورج نوكس الوكيل السياسي البريطاني في الكويت بعد رحلته إلى حفر في يناير ١٩٠٦ (الأوراق ٢٣-٤٥) وتقرير آخر كتبه نوكس بعد رحلته لمنطقة جنوب الكويت في مارس ١٩٠٦.



R-15-1-478

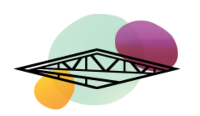
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NOT TO BE ISSUED
REFER READER TO

IOR NEG 9017

ARCHIVIST

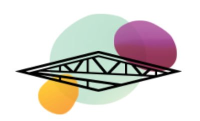




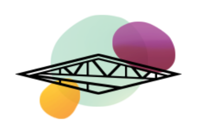
















R/15/1/478

F.O.
[illegible] 15/4/53



D 8

Koweit Affairs 478

The Arab Tribes.

53/7 Vol V.









(2)

INDEX TO FILE 53/7 Vol.V. D 8.

K o w e i t - Arab tribes.

1 9 0 6.





3





(4)

dential.

No. 331 -E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No.3599 E.B., dated the 22nd September 1905.

File 53/7D Vol 29

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT 335 Date 2.2.06 PERSIAN GULF.

By order, etc.,

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT, Fort William; 23rd January 1906.

Assistant Secretary to the Govt.of India.

-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-

Despatch from Sir N. O'Conor, to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No.878, dated the 5th December 1905.

(Received with letter from the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London, No.52, dated 29th December 1905.)





2(5)

ARABIA. [December 11.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 11.)

(No. 878.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 5, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 340 of the 15th May, inclosing a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, reporting the departure of a small force of Turkish infantry and artillery to Nasariye on the Tigris to operate against Sadoun Pasha of the Muntefik, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, reporting the return on the 22nd October of the Vali, Mouklis Pasha, from the Muntefik, where he had been directing a punitive expedition against Sadoun.

Although the Vali claims to have been successful in capturing some of his strongholds, and to have sequestered his lands, he appears to have failed to lay hands on this notorious Arab Chief, who made good his escape into the Syrian desert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 73.)
Sir, *Bussorah, November* 11, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Vali returned from Muntefik on the 22nd October. I called on his Excellency, and inquired the result of his Mission.

The Vali said that Sadoun's importance had been much exaggerated. He had been accused of acts which he never committed, and many mistakes had been made. On a previous occasion the Imperial pardon had been granted him, but he did not merit it. He was a troublesome man, and a source of unrest in the district, and the Vali had recommended that, unless he settled down, and abandoned his predatory habits, no clemency ought to be shown him. After a careful inquiry on the spot the Vali had come to the conclusion that Sadoun was a man of no standing or importance, who had taken advantage of his family name to collect a few followers and tyrannize over a few tribes in Muntefik, and exact tribute from them to which he was not entitled. Sadoun had now taken refuge from pursuit somewhere in the Syrian desert, and, in order to bring him to his senses, the Vali stated that he had stopped the allowance which he received from the Imperial Government, and sequestered certain of his lands, so that he could derive no benefit from them. The Vali hoped by this means to reduce him to submission, but he did not anticipate any satisfactory result, and thought Sadoun was likely to give trouble.

From other sources I hear that the Vali pursued Sadoun, and tried to catch him, but he escaped into the desert; that he sequestered a property called Sakharia, given by the Sultan to Sadoun, and established the El Bedur tribes there, and left a guard in the place; that he destroyed four strongholds belonging to Sadoun, and removed provisions from them; that he exiled about ten persons, lessees of Government lands, charged with mischief and corruption at Nasariye; and that he forced the Cadi of Nasariye to resign by the somewhat drastic method of placing him under guard in the sun until he agreed to tender his resignation.

After these acts the Vali left Nasariye, and returned to Bussorah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

[2294 *l*—1]





3

ential.

No. 429 E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No.331-E.B., dated the 23rd January 1906.

By order, etc.,

R.E. Holland

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,

Fort William;

THE 30th JANUARY 1906.

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-

Despatch from Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne, (No.902-Confidential) dated 11th December 1905, with enclosure. (Received with letter from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, No.1 dated 5th January 1906.)





ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[December 18.]

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 18.)

(No. 902. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 11, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah relating to the condition of Turkish troops in Central Arabia and the political situation there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 75. Confidential.)

Sir, *Bussorah, November* 18, 1905.

FROM information collected here, I learn that of the troops who went to Ghassim last year many died of starvation and many deserted. Some forty fugitives reached Koweit three weeks ago in a pitiable plight. The Sheikh provided them with clothing and money, hired a dhow for them, and sent them on to Bussorah.

Two officers, Reshid Bey, a Major, and Husni Bey, a Lieutenant-Colonel, left the troops in Ghassim and arrived recently in Bussorah. The latter came by way of Koweit with about fifteen men. He is said to be on his way to Egypt.

Orders were sent from Bagdad some weeks ago to Sudgi Pasha, in command of the troops in Ghassim, to discharge about 180 time-expired men. On checking the list it was found that of the 180 men only 18 remained, and the rest had died.

It is stated that the soldiers in Ghassim have received no pay, and that half the provisions sent from Medina were looted by the Arabs on the way. The troops now in Ghassim are said to number about 750.

Husni Bey seems to have quarrelled with his commanding officer, Sudgi Pasha, and to have left his post without leave. His account of the condition of the troops in Central Arabia may be highly coloured, but as regards numbers his version seems to agree roughly with that given by the Sheikh Mubarak to the Political Agent at Koweit.

The Resident at Bushire has sent me a copy of a statement made by Sheikh Mubarak to Captain Knox, describing the political situation in the interior of Arabia in October 1905. The Sheikh's account is as follows:—

Bin Reshid is not strong, even in Hail. Hamood, his uncle, and brother of Mohamed-bin-Reshid, is in charge, and has lost four sons in the recent fighting. Their names are Maid, Salim, Mohamed, and Obeyd. He has three sons left. The eldest is Sultan, who is at enmity with the rest of the family and lives at Jof. He has recently been in correspondence with Sheikh Mubarak. The other two, Saoud and Feysul, are with their father Hamood in Hail. Abdul Aziz-bin-Metaab, the Chief of the Bin Reshid family, has not resided at Hail for the last six years, but is constantly wandering in the desert.

The state of the town of Hail is deplorable. The population consists of Bin Reshid's soldiers. The residents, having no means of livelihood, have dispersed to other towns, selling their property to provide money for their journey.

Abdur Rahman-bin-Feysul, the head of the Saoud family, is at Riad. The town and district are prosperous. There is no truth in the story of a rising at Sedeyr against Bin Saoud's power.

There are no Turkish troops or Turkish Representatives in Riad. Abdul Aziz-bin-Saoud, the eldest son of Abdur Rahman, lies armed in Boregda. There are fifty Turkish soldiers in Boregda, and thirty in Aneyza, but no Turkish civil Representative. The main body of the Turkish troops is at Shebiyeh, five hours north-west of Boregda.

[2294 *s*—1]



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They number 600, with eight guns, but are being constantly withdrawn. They originally numbered 7,000. They are under the orders of a Ferik, Sadig Pasha. Ghassim is prosperous. No Turkish customs have been established, and caravan come and go between Koweit and Nejd unmolested.

Sheikh Mubarak states that the general situation in the interior is entirely satisfactory from his point of view and that of his friends of the Bin Saoud faction.

Captain Knox adds that none of Mubarak's assertions have been verified, and says that the description of the Turkish troops sounds improbable. From a source not usually favourable to Sheikh Mubarak, Captain Knox learns that Bin Saoud's people lately raided some tribes supposed to be well affected to Bin Reshid, and that the Sheikh of Koweit remonstrated with Bin Saoud on the subject, pointed out the impolicy of unprovoked aggression, and threatened to withdraw his favour if such lawless proceedings continued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.



Confidential

Bahrein
9th February 1906

6

My dear Major

An emissary from Bin S'aud called on me yesterday. His name is Musaad bin Suweilim & he has come here via Bida. He ostensibly goes to Bushire for medical treatment. He tells me that Bin Saud feels himself strong enough to turn the Turks out of Hasa & Katif, & then



he wishes to make a treaty with us, allowing us to keep a Political Officer in Hasa or Katif, in return for our protecting him from a sea-attack by the Turks.

I told him that if ever Nejd became an independent State, it was quite possible that our Govt might consent to enter into closer relations with its ruler, but that I did not believe that Bin Saud was



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strong enough to free himself at present from the Turks, though my information was not perhaps very reliable, & that I was quite certain that while England & Turkey were at peace our Govt would not do anything to ~~prevent~~ restrain ~~them~~ the Turks in their endeavours to recover their possessions, if Bin Saud succeeded in capturing them by surprise.

The old gentleman did not seem to like what I said, so I suppose

he will go over the same ground with you.

Is it not possible for our Govt to work the "Status Quo" agreement more strongly in favour of Nejd? They Turks have never yet touched Hauta & Jabrin &c, & if they continue working south-wards, planting out-posts &c, why shouldn't we threaten to work upwards from the south? Or why should not we annex some or all of the desert islands along this coast? I think that an armed post on Zakhnuniya Island, close to Ojair, which has a water supply & yet really belongs to no one, would embarrass the pirates enormously.



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We might withdraw from it again, after suppressing the pirates & if the Turks drop their aggressive policy. It was Herbert who suggested annexing an island, & I told him that it was impossible as every place belonged to some one or other. It has only just occurred to me now, that Zakhnuniya might do, as it belongs to the



11

owners of the Ojair coast if to anyone, & yet it is quite certain that the Turks have never committed any act of effective possession over it. The last residents of the island were the Dowasir who lived there for a time after leaving Nejd & Hasa, & before coming further east to Bahrein.



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(11)

I have not yet received the down-mail, so am still ignorant whether there is anything in particular that you want to know from me. I will keep this open to the last minute possible.

Yours sincerely

F.W. Prideaux

P.S. I am very glad to hear at last that you are actually coming next week.





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13

Recd. at Main Minor. by

Confidential.

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

Daily No. 18/7/06 190 Monthly No.

from

Trans. at Main Minor. by

Class.	No.	Words.	Original date and time tendered by sender.	OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
				Viâ

To His Imperial Majesty the Sultan
Amir Ulmouminin Constantinople

Ayid allah serire Sultenetek bil az vennesr men heiso enne obudiyyeti ve sedki ve ekhlasi ve Sedakati ve Gheirati ve hemmiyyeti la yedumi an atrek annasihe ledini ve dowleti ve sultani seva sedefe Kabulen amla Kad Sabak men hazel abdessadik alarz be adami tansibe Soukel assaker ashshahaniyeh ala ibn soud ve ennal amr dune zalic ve Kad tebayyeneh tasir nesiheti ve akhtashashe arbab elmeKased ve alghraz allezin la Sestefidun nekden ve Jaitan
Johan ve moukean ella be ehdase hazchel meshakal vel Kalakel ve Kad aarazto afkari ande hoduse Kulle hadeseh ez naectar recito amron
Raeetu





(13)

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

Recd. at Main / Minor. by	Daily No.	190 Monthly No. from

Trans. at Main / Minor. by	Class.	No.	Words.	Original date and time tendered by sender.	OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS. Viâ

To

yakhsha menho zerer ala memalek Dowlet
al aliyeh ve allel melle ve arreayyeh
men hal hewades allezi hâdese men al amir
abdul aziz bin Rashid lamma en tekallel (Intikal el) (?)
amir muhammad ve tewallel amr men
beadeh abdul aziz bin Rashid ahlek (khlak) albad
ve nehebal amwal ve Kettallel rejal ve chlek
elatfal ve ammal fessad allel belad ve
jaret alashkeya elaarab ala nehebessobul
vettorok allezi beha tewauf addowleh fellamma
Sare zalek Kamu Solahaennas lanima
reow ma assabal muslemine men az zerar
assetedon men ibn essoud ledafez zerer anhum
memma assabahum men zik elhal fekame





Recd. at	INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.
Main / Minor.	Daily No. ______ ______ 190
by	______ from ______ Monthly No. ______

Trans. at	Class.	No.	Words.	Original date and time tendered by sender.	OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
Main / Minor.					
by					Vid

To

bin Soud meahum ve refiyal mofsedim
ve alashKeyae ahlel fesad ve amenetal belad
ve alebad men bosne siretch ve tibe
Seriretch ve Musihetch le (mowlah? el) malbnahel aagem
amir almouminin ve Khelifetch resule rebbel
alemin ve huve Kaemun be rassmel Khedme
ve tebaeyyete le Dovletch ve mohami ala
Jamie tevaroKaha ve geleKeh tashhedo behi
Jemial berryyeh fe ahabbohu jemial nas
Kaffeh ve bin soud Kad essitarham
meraran ve hove Khademun mohim le
amir almouminin la be Kharejen ve la
asi ve men heiso amchu nesmaa enne
bin Rashid Dayem lam yezzal yelki





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INDO [...] TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

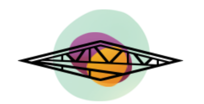
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Trans. at Main / Minor. by	Class.	No.	Words.	Original date and time tendered by sender.	OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS. Viâ
				////	

To

Tashbihat ala ahlel aghraz ve yebgil lehum albatil
le ajal yetashabbehume bel Kezb ve al bohtan
Ve Jemien nassel mooslemin yesterhemun
le moulahum alaazem Amir almoumenin an
la yesmea Kalame arbabeh mokased ve
alaghraz aada eddowlete ve almelleh ve
ehlel ~~Kezb~~ Kezb ve albohtan Kama enni asterhem
anla tefal nesihati haza fi zevevyil ahmal
ve alamr ve alferman le hezretek man
lehul amr ve sallellaho ala mohamed vealeh
(Senders name!) Kaymam mekam Kaza Kater ve reiese ashaeraha
ve Kebayelleha al abdussadek Jassim ale Sani





15

الى سعادت سمو السلطان امير المومنين بالقسطنطينية ايد الله سرير سلطنته بالعز والنصر

من حيث ان عبوديتي وصدقي واخلاصي وعرقي وصداقتي وحميتي لا يهدوني بدعوني ان اترك النصيحة لديني

ودولتي وسلطاني سوى صادف قبولاً ام لا . قد سبق من هذا العبد الصادق العرض بعدم

تنسيب سوق العساكر الشاهانية الى ابن سعود وان الامر دون ذلك . وقد تبين تاثير نصيحتي

واغتشاش ارباب المقاصد والاغراض الذين لا يستفيدون نقداً وجهاً وموقعاً الا باحداث هذه

المشاكل والقلاقل . وقد عرضت افكاري عند حدوث كل حادثة اذ رايت امراً يخشى منه ضرر

الى ممالك الدولة العلية والى الملة والرعية من حال الحوادث الذي حادثة من الامير عبد العزيز بن رشيد

لما انتقل الامير محمد وتولى الامر من بعده عبد العزيز بن رشيد اهلك العباد ونهب الاموال

وقتل الرجال واهلك الاطفال وعم الفساد على البلاد وجارت الاشقياء الاعراب الى نهب السبل

والطرق الذي بها طوارف الدولة . فلما صار ذلك قاموا صلحاء الناس لما راو ما اصاب

المسلمين من الضر استدعو من ابن سعود لدفع الضر عنهم مما اصابهم من ضيق الحال .

فقام بن سعود معهم ونفي المفسدين والاشقياء اهل الفساد وامنت البلاد والعباد من حسن سيرته

وطيب سريرته ونصيحته للمولى الاعظم امير المومنين وخليفة رسول رب العالمين . وهو قايم

برسم الخدمة والتبعية للدولة ومحامي الى جميع طوارقها وذلك تشهد به جميع البرية فاحبه

جميع الناس كافة . وبن سعود قد استرحم سراراً وهو خادم مطيع لامير المومنين لا بخارج

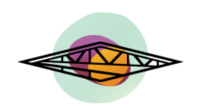
ولا عاصي . ومن حيث انه نسمع ان ابن رشيد دايم لا زال يلقي التنبيهات الى اهل الاغراض

ويبذل لهم البراطيل لاجل يتشبهون بالكذب والبهتان . وجميع الناس المسلمين ليسترحمون لمواهم

الاعظم امير المومنين ان لا يسمع كلام ارباب المقاصد والاغراض اعداء الدولة والملة واهل

الكذب والبهتان كما اني استرحم ان لا تجعل نصيحتي هذا في زوية الاهمال والامر والفرمان لحضرة من له الامر وصلى الله على محمد وعلى آله

قايم مقام قاضي قطر ورئيس عشايرها وقبايلها العبد الصادق جاسم آل ثاني



Translation of a Telegram dispatched in Romanized Arabic to H.M. the Sultan, Constantinople from Bushire by a representative of Ibn Saood & Shaikh Jasim bin Thani on Feb. 18 1906.

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(17)

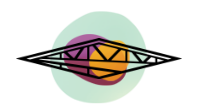
To.

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, Commander of the Faithful, may God uphold his Imperial throne with glory and victory.

Whereas my devotion, honesty, friendliness, & sense of honour, sincerity, and zeal do not allow me to discontinue tendering advice to my religion, my Government and my Sultan whether they are accepted or not, a petition was previously made by this loyal slave suggesting the undesirability of employing a body of imperial troops against Ibn Saood – a course for which there was no necessity.

The effect of my advices is now apparent (step) The effect of my advices, as also are the disturbances caused by interested persons, who are unable to derive profit in cash, money, or opportunity, except by creating difficulties and troubles & like these under pretence.

Indeed I stated my opinion on the occurrence of each incident, which I considered harmful to the Turkish Empire and to its faith and its subjects, and which emanated from

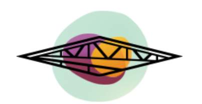


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caused by the proceedings taken by Amir Abdul Aziz bin Rashid from the time when Amir Mohamed died & the affairs of state passed into the hands of the said Abdul Aziz bin Rashid. He massacred the faithful, plundered their property, put men to death, killed children; and disturbance became general in the country, and the lawless Arabs were encouraged to infest the roads and high ways along which the dependants of the Government dwelt. When things came to this pass pious men, seeing the harm suffered by Musulmans, came forward and solicited Ibn Saood to ward off the difficulties which befell them in their sorry plight. Ibn Saood accordingly rose & joined them.

He expelled the evil doers and wicked persons, and secured tranquillity to the Country and people by his excellent behaviour and high character and by his righteous services to the great Lord, the Commander of the faithful, and the successor of the Prophet of God of the two worlds. He still remains ready to render services and submissive to Government, and protects all the roads, and all the people testify to this. He is be loved by everybody in general. Ibn Saood has indeed repeatedly invoked favour saying that he is an obedient

servant



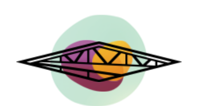
18

servant of the Commander of the Faithful and that he is neither schismatic nor a rebel (on the other hand) according to what I heard Bin Rashid ceases not to supply material profusion to interested persons and to give them bribes with a view to their making misrepresentations and accusations; therefore all the Mussalmans beseech the Great Lord and Commander of the Faithful not to listen to the statements of such interested persons who are the enemies of the State and the faith and who are liars and false accusers; Similarly I pray you that this my counsel may not be rejected; and the order and Command rests with His Majesty; and may Peace rest upon Mohamed and his family. —

(from) Kaim mukam (Kazi of the Kaza) of Katr and chief of its clans and tribes Jasim al Thani

treated with indifference

19/2/06.





[*Confidential.*]

24

No. 64, dated Bushire, the 23rd February (received 6th March) 1906.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

With reference to the correspondence ending with Foreign Department endorsement No. 429-E. B., dated 30th January 1906, I have the honour to furnish the following information bearing on the situation in Nejd.

2. On the 12th instant, I received a communication from the Political Agent, Bahrein, to the effect that an emissary of Ibn Saood named Musaad bin Suweilim had arrived at Bahrein *viâ* El Bida and had called at the Agency. He informed Captain Prideaux that Ibn Saood felt himself strong enough to turn the Turks out of Hassa and Katif and then wished to enter into treaty relations with us, allowing us if we desired to keep a Political Officer in Hassa or Katif in return for our protecting him from a sea attack from the Turks.

Captain Prideaux expressed his personal doubts as to whether Ibn Saood was strong enough to free himself from the Turks, and otherwise refrained from giving any encouragement to Musaad's suggestions, and the old gentleman left the Agency in a somewhat disappointed mood saying that he intended to proceed to Bushire by the next mail for medical treatment.

3. On the same date three Nejdi Arabs arrived in Bushire and I had their movements watched as reported in item No. 180 of this Office Political Diary for the week ending 18th February 1906. They proved to be Musaad bin Suweilim and two companions. They stayed with Najaf bin Ghalib, the Koweiti merchant living in Bushire, and on the 18th instant they sent a long and expensive telegram to His Majesty the Sultan in Romanized Arabic of which I attach a translation. It will be seen that it actually purports to come from Sheikh Jasim bin Thani but was evidently sent on behalf of, and in communication with, Ibn Saood.

With reference to the first-named veteran, it is interesting to note that at the end of the telegram, as transliterated for delivery to the telegraph office, he describes himself;

"Kayem Mekam Kaze Katr ve reiese ashayeraha ve kebayelleha al abdusadek Jassim al Sani."

I am doubtful whether this is intended to mean;

"Kaim Mukam *of the Kaza of Katr* and Chief of its clans and tribes, the faithful slave Jassim al Thani" or;

"Kaim Mukam *and Kazi of Katr* and Chief of its clans and tribes, the faithful slave Jassim al Thani"

Whichever it be, Sheikh Jassim poses as the humble slave of His Majesty the Sultan, whereas in a letter to the Political Agent, Bahrein, which must have been written about the same time as the above telegram, he rather went out of his way to mention the fact that he considered himself subject to Sheikh Esa of Bahrein.

4. The position seems to be that Ibn Saood is exasperated by the neglect of the Turks to suppress Ibn Rashid, and that he (Ibn Saood) and Sheikh Jassim, whose sympathies are with him, are sitting on the hedge at present and apparently sent this representative, Musaad bin Sweilim, with instructions to sound the British representative in the first place, and, if he received no encouragement from the latter, to proceed to Bushire and send the above telegram to the Sultan.

My informant tells me that the Arabs expected to receive their reply *viâ* Basrah and it was therefore no use their remaining here longer. They left again for Bahrein on the 21st instant, and I may mention that they did not visit the Residency during their stay in Bushire.

5. I am forwarding a copy of this communication to His Majesty's Consul, Basrah, for information.

5150 F. D.



Translation of a telegram despatched in Romanized Arabic to His Majesty the Sultan, Constantinople, from Bushire by a representative of Ibn Saood and Sheikh Jassim bin Thani, on the 18th February 1906.

To

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, Commander of the Faithful, May God uphold his Imperial Throne with Glory and Victory.

Whereas my devotion, honesty, sincerity, friendliness, zeal and sense of honour do not allow me to discontinue tendering advice to my religion, my Government and my Sultan, whether they are accepted or not, a petition was previously made by this loyal slave suggesting the undesirability of employing a body of Imperial troops against Ibn Saood—a course for which there was no necessity.

The effect of my advices is now apparent as also are the disturbances caused by interested persons who are unable to derive profit in cash, money, or opportunity except by creating difficulties and troubles like these under reference.

Indeed I stated my opinion on the occurrence of each incident which I considered harmful to the Turkish Empire and to its faith and its subjects, and which emanated from Amir Abdul Aziz bin Rashid from the time when Amir Mohamed died and the affairs of the State passed into the hands of the said Abdul Aziz bin Rashid.

He massacred the faithful and plundered their property; he put men to death and killed children; and disturbance became general in the country, and the lawless Arabs were encouraged to infest the roads and highways along which the dependents of the Government dwelt.

When things came to this pass pious men seeing the harm suffered by Musulmans, came forward and solicited Ibn Saood to ward off difficulties which befell them in their sorry plight. Accordingly Ibn Saood arose and joined them. He expelled the evil-doers and wicked persons and secured tranquillity to the country and people by his excellent behaviour and high character and by his righteous services to the Great Lord, the Commander of the faithful, and the successor of the Prophet of God of the two worlds. He still remains ready to render service, and submissive to Government, and protects all the roads, and all the people testify to this. He is beloved by everybody in general. Ibn Saood has indeed repeatedly, invoked favour saying that he is an obedient servant of the Commander of the faithful and that he is neither schismatic nor a rebel. On the other hand, according to what I hear, Ibn Rashid ceases not to supply material for suspicion to interested persons and to give them bribes with a view to their making misrepresentations and accusations; and therefore all the Musulmans beseech the Great Lord and Commander of the Faithful not to listen to the statements of such interested persons who are the enemies of the State and of the faith, and who are liars and false accusers. Similarly I pray that this my counsel may not be treated with indifference; and the order and command rest with His Majesty; and may Peace rest upon Mahomed and his family.

(from) Kaim Mukam 1 } Kâzi of the Kaza { of Katr and Chief of its
" " 2 } { clans and tribes,

JASIM AL THANI.

G. I. C. P.O.—No. 5150 F. D.—7-3-1906.—35.—L. G. G.



(20)

24

Confidential.

o/c

No: 302 of 1906.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 23? February 1906.

Copy forwarded to His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Busreh, for information.

By Order

23.2.06.

Lieutenant,

Second Assistant to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

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Letter No: 64 dated 23 February 1906, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Calcutta, (with enclosure).





From Captain S. G. Knox
Political Agent
Koweit

To Major P. Z. Cox C.I.E.
Resident &
H. B. M's Consul General in the
Persian Gulf
Bushire

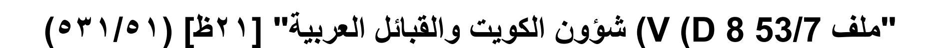
25

Confidential No 35th D/. Koweit
7/2/6.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith a report on the tour undertaken by me during the month of January. The first half of the tour was to Bussorah and passed without any incident worthy of mention except that I received a warm welcome & passed a pleasant day's hawking with the Bin Mishri household from Zubair who were encamped at Gishamija wells.

2. As, in consequence of the strongly expressed wishes of Sheikh Mobarak, I did not pass through either Sefwan, Umkasr or Zubair, I may mention that I saw no signs of Turkish rule until I reached an encampment of Turkish troops just outside the town of Busrah.

3. The officer in command of this detachment treated me with great civility & told off a corporal & file to show me the way to the British Consulate, an attention all the more welcome as I had arrived at his quarters at 9 p.m. & had still some three miles to go. An accident had prevented my being met, as expected, at U Jama 9 miles from Bussorah.

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3. I fear that the results of the tour to El Hafar will appear somewhat meagre but it is at least something to have shewn that a British officer can, under the auspices of the Sheikh of Koweit, travel leisurely & without the least attempt at concealment with an insignificant escort over 150 miles of this wild country without being in any way molested en route.

4. On my remarking this to Sheikh Mobarak, he observed that it would have been all the same had I proceeded to El Kasim and, as far as I can venture to judge from the Nejdis I have met, I believe that, with



suitable Bedouin rafiqs one could safely venture across the Dahna & be sure of a hospitable welcome on the other side

27

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
[signature] Captain
Political Agent, Koweit.





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Report on Political Agent Koweit's Tour to Hafar in January 1906.

<u>Duration of tour.</u> The Political Agent left Jahra Fort on the 20th January and returned to Koweit on the 31st January. The tour thus lasted twelve days.

<u>Composition of Party.</u> The Political Agent was accompanied by Moolla Abdulla, Munshi, a Koweit town bred Arab, four Bedouin sowars, supplied as escort by Sheikh Mobarak:-

1. Erbid of the Umwaha, the leading section of the Umteyr, had a loose command over the escort, entrusted to him by Sheikh Mobarak. He was only primus inter pares.
2. Fahad of the Thaffeir tribe.
3. Amreykhan } Rashaida.
4. Fahid }

These last two belong to an inferior Bedouin tribe with whom other Bedouins will not intermarry.

All the above were mounted on rakaib or trotting camels, supplied by Sheikh Mobarak.

Two Arab chuprassis, both town bred, one from Basrah and the other from Sadiq in the Sedeyr district of Nejd.

Seven camelmen from Sedeyr with 8 baggage camels very lightly laden. The Political Agent was thus the only foreigner in the party.

<u>Map and intruments.</u> A map of the route is attached but must not be regarded as more than the roughest indication of the country





29 (24)

traversed. The only instrument carried was a good pocket compass and distances were calculated by carefully timing the pace of the baggage camels. Their pace was estimated at three miles an hour and is fairly correct for the journey to Hafar along a well marked road, not easy to miss. On the return route, however, besides the fatigue of constant travel on a scant water supply, the baggage was constantly deviating from the true course and the return distances, noted in the tour diary, have been reduced to fit into the map.

All that can be regarded as certain is that Rigai is south of Jahra and Koweit that the general course of the Batin from Rigai to Hafar is S.W. and that Hafar is well south of Grayn hill.

The positions of Koweit, Jahra fort, Wara and Burgan were fixed by the survey work of January 1905.

Bedouin guides.

The journey to Hafar presented no great difficulty, as from Jahra to Sāida ridge, the country is well known and the landmarks conspicuous and sufficient. At no great distance from Sadda is the Khabra ul Faragh and thence the road to El Kasim is on the whole well marked as far as Rigai while from Rigai to Hafar, an over cautious traveller has nothing to do but follow the sha'ib, as it is called, of the Batin and he could not miss his way which would not be greatly prolonged. The man, who has once seen his road from Jahra to El Hafar should——————————





30 (25)

have no difficulty in following it a second time.

The return journey was however a very different matter. Any one of the Bedouin guides would no doubt have been capable of conducting the party from El Hafar direct to Subaihiya but it was amusing to see the way in which they could never be brought to agree together on the true direction and even quarrelled endlessly on the identity of the few spots which presented any contrast to the uniform character of the country travelled.Distances they were hopeless about.Every man had his own opinion as to whether Jahra or Subaihiya was the nearer to El Hafar and whether Jahra or Koweit was nearer to Subaihiya. Eventually Amreykhan,whose proposed line of march coincided closest with the Political Agent's private opinion of what the direction should be,was selected as guide and led the party with wonderful accuracy across the 80 miles of Dibdiba steppe,to the hill of Salaa. There was no landmark en route except the inconspicuous ridge of Mosanna and the Khabra or shallow basin of Abulhiran and the weather was cloudy. He chose at starting a line of about 80° by the compass but very shortly changed to about 65° which seemed the general direction by frequent chekings of his course with the compass. At the same time,he zigzagged eternally





31 (26)

between N E and E, maintaing that in this he was following the practice of Awwalin or ancients in similar predicaments. It will be inferred from the above that the probable error in the map is that Hafar is shown too far north.

Ameykhan himself made frequent use of the compass and studied it long and deeply whenever placed on the ground.

The following extracts from the Political Agent's private diary may prove of interest as giving some indication of the country travelled over and may be useful to future travellers.

Thursday 18th January. The Nejdi camelmen, who have had the opportunity of discussing the question of the march to El Hafar for the last five days, have to-day come to the conclusion that their camels cannot do the distance, though one of the leaders seems to think that they might get through if additional hire was paid to them. Their promise was to accompany me wherever I pleased at a fixed daily rate per camel Krans 6 and one real per day for the food of the camelmen. Moolla Abdulla and Erbid have spent the whole day arguing the case and have at last come to me in the evening to say that they have exhausted all reasonable means of expostulation and I have said that we





32 (27)

will take them before Sheikh Mobarak the morning.

Friday 19th January. The camelmen came before the Sheikh who argued the question with them patiently but at last informed me that he would get camels for me in Jahra and that, of course, the Nejdis would lose their hire for the period of four days halt at Jahra. As the day wore on, the younger members of the party came to say that they wished to go but that their elders were foolish people; and, when other camels were actually produced, the Nejdis gave way altogether and expressed their readiness to go on, dying camels and all. As Moolla Abdulla and the Bedouins mistrusted the impressed camels of Jahra and on the principle of "'Tis best to bear the ills we have" I decided to retain their services.

Saturday 20th January. The "hamla" by which useful term borrowed from the Bedouins I shall in future style the baggage, camelmen and their animals, started off at 7.30 a.m. and after a brief adieu to Sheikh Mobarak and his people who wished us a safe and quick journey, we started on the rakaib and at 7.55 a.m. overtook the hamla at the Jahra wells where they had only just finished filling the water skins.

Jahra wells are barely a mile from the fort. Our course lay S.W. and most





33 (28)

of our march of the morning was marked by cloudy weather and occasional showers. At 8.35 a.m. we left Khabra ul Bal on our right. This basin collects a certain amount of water on its way to Jahra and in favourable seasons I am told a scanty crop of wheat or barley is raised here. At 8.55 a.m. we had the hill of Rahaya or the millstone on our left. Shortly after leaving this spot, we disturbed a wolf engaged on a dead camel and Amreykhan started off on a wild goose chase with his rifle. There were plenty of sand grouse all along today's route and in the Batin. We shot four varieties two of them called "kidney" by the Bedouins. These last are beautiful birds with a hoarse croaking call not unlike that of a crow.

The next name we met with was Umm Atweynich where there are one or two khabras and the remains of a mud hut on the left of the road. It is a basin formed by Farida, the solitary hill to our right at right angles to the Atraf or broken mounds at the extremity of the Umteybya range and by a semicircular ridge which we climbed. The hamla reached this spot at 10.45 a.m. 8 miles from Jahra.

After turning the corner of the Farida slope, we went S.W. with a little more W. in it towards Sadda. This word is apparently connected with the sudd of Mobarak's date gardens at Fao and would be called in





34 (29)

India the bund. There is a beautiful landmark on our right front on the ridge of Sadda, Khad-i-Sadda. It is called Inheydeyn or the two breasts. The only objection to the name is that there are three of them

Before reaching the sandstone ridge of As-Sadda, I looked back over my left shoulder and saw the twin brother of Inheydeyn behind me. Another excellent landmark, called 'MR'ooz the mother of heads

We surmounted the ridge of Sadda by a path near a dry torrent fed from the plateau above. The hamla reached the same spot at 1.25 p.m. say between 16 and 17 miles from Jahra. We have been gradually rising the whole way but shall soon descend on the Shag. Sadda appears to be about the level of Umteybya and runs nearly N. and S. Half a dozen Bedouin tents are packed out of the way of the wind to the right and left of the road and an old gentleman of the Umteyr comes up to where we are waiting for the hamla to tell us that they belong to his tribe and to hear the news.

We have begun to go W. by S.W. and leaving Khabra ul Farag on our left, have reached the hamth which means that we have passed the Shag or dividing line between the hamth and Arafij. We are awaiting the hamla which come up at 4.30 p.m. having ___





35 (30)

marched 8½ hours and covered, I estimate 25 miles. Here we halt for the night.

Sunday 21st January. A heavy shower of rain at 6.30 a.m. made breakfast difficult and delayed the packing up but the hamla was off at 7.40 a.m. Our course is to be W. with a little S.W. in it. Dibdiba begins with the hamth and ends with the Batin but I have heard that it continues again beyond it. At 10 a.m. the hamla reached the road to El Kasim. It consists of half a dozen parallel camel tracks and the Bedouins say it continues the whole way. None the less it requires fairly careful watching for the camel grazing grows thick about here and it is by no means impossible to lose the track. At about 11 a.m. we, on the rakaib left Umm Amara to the South. This is not a good land mark merely an indistinct rise in the plain but I am told water collects there in heavy rain and that there are traces of old deep wells. The hamla arrived at our halting place at 4.20 p.m. They went better and quicker to-day but halted half an hour. The length of march I estimate at 25 miles.

Monday 23rd January. The hamla started at 7.40 a.m. Course still W. with a little S.W. in it. Most of to-day's march through poorer country than ever and with no landmarks, so that if one lost the road, one would be badly





36 ③

off. We saw about 7# gazelle to-day. ~~at~~ at 12.30. The Bedouins assured me at breakfast that we were only an hour from the Batin but we left at 1 p.m. and at 3.30 p.m. we halted with Rigai 5 miles further on. Some Mishaida told us disquieting news which turned out to be correct that we would not hope to fill a kirby at Rigai. The hamla did not reach until 4.30 p.m. but the pace was better and I estimate to-day's march as not much less than 30 miles. When we halted at the Khabra of Umm-ul-Hamir, I pushed on with Erbid and Amreykhan to find out what chances there were of water at Rigai. The ground from Umm-ul-Hamir to Rigai is curiously depressed, a sharp downward slope of a few feet to the east with a slow rise to the west, the scanty drainage running down towards Umm-ul-Hamir. This occurs 5 or 6 times and is the first true indication to the unpractised observer that you are near the batin. When you reach the Rijm-i-Rigai, the slope is running down to El Batin. There is no question here about the depression of the Batin and I should judge it about a couple of miles across at this point and the shaib 300 feet below the bank.

Rigai is on the S.E. bank. On the way down the slope and just to the right of the road-one





37 (32)

may say on the road-we cross a mountain torrent with a water fall of about 10 feet fall and 40 to 50 feet broad. I should judge it to be a ledge of limestone. The wells which are in mid-stream are dotted about close around with galleries connecting. A Bedouin said they were originally dug by a wolf and it is not a bad description.

Tuesday 23rd January. The hamla started at 7.10 a.m. and reached Rigai wells at 8.30 a.m. There was just a little water in the well of Umm Khurjin or the mother of two saddle bags

7ft

21ft

The sketch above gives some notion of what it was like. A man can just crawl down on his belly and could not possibly turn round in it but must return feet first. There are plenty of other wells about but they hold nothing but sand. We got half a kirby of good water. The Bedouins say that this supply is from last year but that when there has been a full flood hereabouts the water lasts the whole hot weather. The course of the Rigai torrent is N.W. At 10.30 a.m. we caught up the hamla, between 5 and 6 miles from Rigai and I took bearings. Rigai was at an angle of 50° while the three sets of mounds called Kharja opposite Rigai stood about 10°. At about 40° stood a good landmark in the shape of a hill that I judged 10 miles





from Rigai but of which my Bedouins would only tell me that it lay on the S.E.bank of the Batin.Tey did not know its name.

The Batin winds a bit here and we moved along the S.E.slope crossing the A'athariyat a series of half a dozen torrents of much the same character as Rigai which sometimes hold water underground.In the course of the day's march we descended to the shaīb of the Batin and were even for a short time on the lowerxx edge of the N.W.slope.

The shaīb consists of a dark coloured clay "put"showing signs of water but of an almost stagnant flow settling down deposit from the banks on right and left.There were no signs of scour.

In Baluchistan the stream would, I think,have been bunded up and khooshkaba cultivation produced once in 5 years or so,for the side torrents must bring down water sometimes and wells could undoubtedly be dug as has been done at El Hafar. If the expenses was incurred of digging a well between Rigai and Hafar for the purpose of improving the route between Busrah and El Kasim nothing but security from the Bedouins and their camels would be required to produce a scanty dry weather crop.The shaīb produces large patches of a low scrub sufficiently high to screen a gazelle or a bustard.It is nowhere more than half a mile broad.





39 (34)

My Bedouins produced to-day or my inspection two extraordinary looking plants called Turthooth a cross between a fungus and a turnip.The root was broken off in each case for they had not the patience to dig down to full depth and thought that no one ever had had. The portion produced was in each case about a foot long.The head and neck are pink shading off to a dull brown and when you slice the thing it is white inside and moist.The following rough sketches may give some idea of this curious plant:

ground level

The Bedouins eat this root and my Munshi ventured on our specimens and made a hearty meal off them.We are going full S.W.with an inclination if anything S. The hamla stopped at 3.40 and the length of our march I estimate at 25 miles,or 20 miles from Rigai.We turned to the left and halted on the bank of a torrent bed. Some Soliba are encamped on the opposite bank and inform us that Hafar is twice as far off as Rigai. The Bedouins seem to have no idea of the distance.One of them has never seen Hafar and the rest only once or twice in their lives. Our halting place is called the Tharabin from the low mounds on ——————————





40 (35)

either side of the Batin at this point.
Wednesday 24th January. The hamla started at 7.20 a.m. and reached the Kusr-i-Ballal at 12.25 on the S.E. bank of the Batin and the edge of the shaib, say 35 miles from Rigai. This kasr is the remains of an old mud fort (date unknown) attributed to Balal of the Beni Hallal. The old walls enclose a space about 50 paces square and there are outlying ruins about but it can never have been as pretentious a dwelling as Sheikh Mobarak's mud fort at Sirra. The Bedouins would have it that the moisture necessary to weld the mud together was obtained from that useful animal xx the camel but Sheikh Mobarak informs me that there are traces of an old well somewhere about, though I saw nothing to suggest it. It is perhaps significant that the shaib is broader and perhaps bears more vegetation here than elsewhere. It was full of sand grouse.

We left Kasr-i-Ballal and kept with the hamla in sight though about 3 miles behind till 5p.m. As it was a particularly long march to-day, they were keeping up their spirits with a dance and song, which did not interrupt the progress of the journey. They must then have been 28 miles from our last camp. We then pushed on as night was falling and reached Hafar wells at 7 p.m. with a good deal of trotting. The last two hours I estimate brought





41 (36)

us over 9 miles so that I place Hafar at 40 miles from our last camp or 60 miles from Rigai. There was a good deal of "Hush Hush" and getting out of rifles as night fell which was at first quite exciting but grew painfully monotonous at the end of an hour's jogging through the darkness. We never saw the haala that night though we heard their camels grunting somewhere in the darkness and it turned out that they passed us and camped for the night a mile further on. There is no firewood in the close vicinity of the wells and we had no water but fortunately the weather was cloudy and the night mild.

Thursday 25th January. The morning gave us an opportunity of seeing El Hafar. All that I could gather in the darkness of last night was that we kept trending more and more to our left i.e. southwards and it would appear that the road on/is still more southerly in the direction of El Kasim but this is merely hearsay. The wells are situated in the middle of the shaib which here becomes a large circular plain of about three miles diameter. The Batin from bank to bank must be quite 8 miles across Hafar hill a long low sandy hill lies to the S. by E. of the wells. Hafar wells number about forty but only eleven are alive to use the Bedouin expression. They average a depth of 150 feet and the water is almost tepid. One can see the vapour





42 (37)

rising from the wells mouths in the chill morning air. The Bedouins say that, when left alone, the water level will rise thirty feet. The wells are dotted about the plain about 100 yards to a quarter of a mile apart. Each one is in the centre of a mound about 10 feet above plain level the result no doubt of the excavated debris. They are lined with rough stone masonry and the mouth is about 6 feet across. The plain in the vicinity of the wells is absolutely bare, not a stick is allowed to grow and but for camel dung, cooking would have been a difficulty. Grouse fly backwards and forwards over the wells and my shots at them greatly alarmed an Umtair servant of a well to do Koweit townsman who had come out to look for his master's sheep which were required for the Eed. He and his little party had been five days since their last water supply and were just approaching Hafar for a drink when they heard my attempts at the grouse and at once jumped to the conclusion that enemies were fighting each other for the possession of the Hafar wells. However, thirst was even more terrible than war and they ventured on after a little and found themselves among friends and tacked themselves on to our party for the homeward route. At noon after a well earned rest the camels started on the return journey with filled water skins. Forty eight minutes marching brought





43 (38)

the hamla to the top of the S.E.bank of the Batin, at this point one had almost said the E.bank of the Batin. Hafar hill stretched away to our right and round its eastern base, a torrent flows into the Hafar basin. It is called Faleyj ul Janoobiya which marks the road to Us-Safa, the first of the Atwal-ul-Umteyr a line of wells running southward averaging two to three days apart. From the north the Faleyj uth Shammaliya enters the Batin in reply and marks the road to Ud-Dameymiya the first of the Atwal-uth-Thaffir, a similar line of wells.

Our route lay across hard ground lightly strewn with pebbles. This kind of ground is called Hazam and is similar to the tops of Mutla' and Agthai with a few patches of camel grazing here and there for variety. Our course is E.with an inclination N.E. The hamla halted at 3.45 p.m. and I estimate the distance marched at 11 miles.

Friday 26th January. The hamla started at 6.30 a.m.At 8.30 our course was E. by N.E.say 70° and remained the same all this day and the next. The character of the country traversed was also much the same as the previous day's and the route generally even more barren than our experience of Dibdiba between the Shag and Rigai.

The hamla reached Al-Hosanna at 3.30 p.m.say 37 miles from Hafar. The Bedouins say that this ridge is the highest part of Dibdiba.It runs S.W.





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and N.E. from Fuleyj ul Janoobiya to Umm ul Amara, rising gently all the way. From Umm-ul-Amara it descends to the Shag. The ridge is hardly noticeable and I, at least, should certainly have crossed it without knowing it. On our road to-day, we saw some Umtair servants of Ud-Dowish. They bolted on our approach and subsequently fired on Ameykhan who followed them up to get news. No one seemed to consider the circumstance unusual or to require even an explanation, much less an apology. The hamla reached our halting place on the Mosannah at 4.20 p.m. so we made 28 miles to-day.

Saturday 27th January. The hamla started at 6.40 a.m. and came in at 4.20 p.m. so we completed 28 miles. A gazelle that Ameykhan shot last night was found half eaten by foxes next morning but the Bedouins eat it none the less. We met a Rashidi with a flock of sheep and bought one from him. We went along the Mosannah most of to-day's march but at length left it on our left.

Sunday 28th January. We pushed on a bit this morning with the only result of losing our hamla. We halted till late in the afternoon till they were almost up to us and could see us clearly but in the course of another hour they were lost again and we never saw them all night. I reckon we made 34 miles to-day. We were halted in Abalhiran a very large Khabra which at least one torrent helps to fill. This





45

is bunded up on the east by a natural ridge which I place at 92 miles from Hafar. This ridge and Ul Mosannah are the only landmarks on the route so far. We had a dinner of dates and meat washed down with black coffee. About 3 hours after dinner, the rain came on and the wind was from all quarters at once, so our night could hardly be called comfortable.

Monday 29th January. I shook up the Bedouins at break of day on a very dull dark morning with something of a shimal blowing. One went off to fill the kirby at last night's rain puddles and two others managed between them to light a fire in spite of wet wood and a slight drizzle. We then set off to find the hamla and located them by their camels grunting as they were being loaded up somewhere to our N.W. After a breakfast of dates and meat we started to follow them. We drenched our rakaib and filled the kirby at the water hole of Abalhiran which will I told, hold water for a month after last night's rain and then it was trotting hard for an hour and a half until we reached the ridge of Salaa' 8 miles N.E. of the ridge of Abalhiran and higher. A traveller from Subaihiya to Hafar would ordinarily leave it on his right but our hamla had gone N. We caught them at Salaa' and set our course E. with a very little N. in it. The day's march was about 30 miles. We halted at 3 p.m. in an absolutely





46 (41)

featureless plain still in Dibdiba.
This seems an appropriate moment for
discussing the etymology of this word.
The Bedouins assured me that it had
something to do with losing one's way
but it seems to be the place where one
"creeps"along trying to keep one's
direction and wavering uncertainly to
right and left.The snake here is a
dābba and his track is very similar
to that of a Bedouin guide. The ups
and downs are just enough to hide even
camels at a comparatively short dis-
tance and yet so gradual as to be al-
most imperceptible and quite charac-
terless.

Tuesday 30th January. The hamla left
camp at 7.10 a.m.but the rikaib,taking
a lesson from our previous experiences,
stayed over the camp fire till 8.0 to
give them a start. Four miles
brought us to the full view of the E.
bank of the Shag. From here a Bedouin
can recognize the Subaihiya land which
is slightly lower and to the right of
the highest ridge. We saw on our
own (the western bank) and to our right
the low plateau of Garaa whence the
Bedouins bring in "nasi" a coarse
forage grass for Koweit.

The Manāgish are a collection of
whitish hills about 10 miles away a
good landmark with a water hole(thamila)
From here to go to Jahra one would
leave them on the right and to go to
Koweit on the left. Again going from
Subaihiya to Jahra they would lie on





47 (92)

the left. We took two hours to cross the Shag valley from top of west to top of east bank and the dividing line between the hamth and the arafij is half way in the khabra ud Dowish. Last year this khabra was so I was told very nearly the ~~same~~ scene of a tribal fight between the Ajman and the Umteyr as both wished for its possession, until Sheikh Mobarak intervened and gave the right to the Dowish, the ~~xxxxxx~~ Sheikh of the Umteyr.

On our right the Shag seems to trend westward leaving its north and south course. From the Khabra to our first camp in the Shag was 6 hours marching and it goes as much more further north. I was told however that it went a good deal further south and west, as much as, five days marching, say 150 miles. At 3.10 p.m. we first saw Burgan and shortly afterwards Wara and I took bearings 89° and 74° respectively and halted. According to the hamla's marching, we have done 32 miles to-day and are still nearly 4 hours from Subaihiya wells but as I have fixed our camp, we can push straight into Koweit now.

I estimate Subaihiya ~~A~~ from Hafar according to our marching hours at 145 miles from Hafar but what with tired camels and zigzag marching it is probably at least 10 miles less.

Wednesday 31st January. The hamla, it was arranged, would follow slowly in two days but the rakaib left camp at 6.45 a.m. and went fast and steadily





48 (93)

till noon when we saw Ul Mutla' across the bay. We left Burgan and Wara on our right and later on the well marked ridge of Adān. On the left we saw the Chabd plateau. Our general direction was 35°. We reached Koweit at 4 p.m. and found Sheikh Mobarak seated in the Safah and went up to greet him. Although we were only a day late, the fact of no news having been received of us along the Jahra road had made him anxious and he expressed himself very glad to see us. The usual news of the road was given supplemented by Erbid's official report and we took our leave. Our only casualty on the road was one baggage camel, always a weak one, left behind on Ul Mosannah. The baggage came in next day and it is worth noting that the same men who had been so obstructive at Jahra, worked willingly and well throughout the journey and gave no trouble whatever. In spite of hunger, thirst, cold and rain everybody kept fit and well.

[signature]

Captain,

Political Agent, Koweit.

map





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List of vernacular words used in the report.

A'athariyāt	العاذريات
Abulhiran	ابالحيران
Adān	عدان
Agthai	اقضي
As-Sādda	الساده
Atraf	اطراف
Atwal-uth-Thaffir	اطوال الضفير
Atwal-ul-Umteyr	الطوال المطير
Awwalin	اولين
Faleyj-ul-Janoobiya	فليج الجنوبية
Faleyj-ush-Shamaliyn	فليج الشماليه
Farida	فريده
Garaa	قرعه
Grayn	كرين
Hafar	حفر
Inheydeyn	انهيدين
Kasr-i-Ballal	قصر بلال
Khabra-ul-Bal	خبر البعل
Khabra-ul-Faragh	خبر الفراغ
Kha-i-Sadda	خد الساده
Kharja	خرجه
Managish	مناقيش
Mosannah	مسناه
'MR'oos	ام روس
Mutla'	مطلع
Rahaya	ارحية
Rashaida-Rashidi	رشايده رشيدي
Rigai	رقعي
Sadiq	ثادج
Sadda ridge	
Salaa'	سلع
Sedeyr	سدير
Shag	شق
Soliba	صلبه





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Subaihiya	صبيحيه
Thaffir	
Tharabin	ضرابين
Ud-Daleybiya	الدليميّة
Ud-Dowish	الدويش
Umm Amara	ام عماره
Umm Khurjin	ام خرجين
Umm Atweynich	ام اتوينج
Umteyr	[illegible]
Umteyliya	اطيليع
Umm-ul-Hamir	ام الحمير
Us-Safa	الصافه
Wara	واره

Arafij	عرفج
Hamla	حمله
Hazam	حزم
Khabra	خبره
Nasi	نصي
Rakaib	ركايب
Safa	صفاة
Shaib	شعيب
Sudd	سدّ
Thamila	ثميله
MXXXXX Turthooth.	طرثوث





57

No 454

To P. A. Koweit 28/2/06

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks the due receipt of your letter No. 35. of 7th Feb. 1906 giving cover to you the report & sketch connected with your tour to Regai & Hafar, and to inform you that it has been forwarded to the Map Dept. with the request that it may be passed on to Mr. J. G. Lorimer C.I.E. for ~~reference~~ information in connection with the Gazetteer under preparation

P.Z.C.





57

No: 460 of 1906.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 28 February 1906.

From,

Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To,

Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
C A L C U T T A.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a report (with sketch Koweit No:35 dated 7th February 1906.)(in original) by Captain S. G. Knox, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit, of a tour made by him in January to Rigai and Hafar in the hinterland South of Koweit.

2. I venture to suggest that it may be sent on to Mr: J. G. Lorimer, C.I.E., for reference in connection with the Gazetteer under preparation by him.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
P. Z. Cox Major,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





(48)

53

Confidential.

No. 884- E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 49-E.B., dated the 5th January 1906.

File 53/34

By order, etc,

Clements [signature]

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,
Fort William;
The 24th February 1906.

Letter from the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, No. 112, dated the 25th January 1906, with enclosure.





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(49)

Confidential.

No. 112 of 1906.

From

Lieutenant Colonel L. S. Newmarch,
Political Resident in Turkish Arabia
and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-
General, Baghdad,

To

Sir Louis W. Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department, Calcutta.

British Residency & Consulate General,
Baghdad, 25th January 1906.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit for the information of the Government of India a copy of the marginally noted despatch addressed by His Majesty's Consul at Basrah to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting on the friendly relations which appear to exist between the Sheikh of Koweit and the Vali of Basrah.

. 1, dated 4th January 1906.

I have, etc.,

(Sd) C. B. McConaghey,
Captain I.M.S.,
for Political Resident in Turkish Arabia &
H.B.M's Consul General, Baghdad.





(50)

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onfidential.

From His Britannic Majesty's Consulate at Basrah to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, No. 1, dated 4th January 1906.

Sir,

There has been a marked improvement during the past year in the relations of the Sheikh of Koweit with the Vali of Basrah. This change has been noticed since their meeting at Sefwan in February 1905. The Vali's attitude towards Mubarak is both friendly and conciliatory and the Sheikh, on his side, seems to do all he can to meet Muklis Pasha's wishes, both by subscribing liberally to the military barracks, which have recently been erected at Basrah, and to which Mubarak contributed T. £ 625: by regularly forwarding deserters from the Turkish troops in Ghassim, who made their way to Koweit, and by safeguarding the postal communication between Basrah and Hassa, which continues by way of Koweit, as reported in my telegram 56 of November 4th 1905.

The Sheikh of Koweit's imprisoned agent Abdul Aziz es Sahin, who was released and sent to Koweit with letters on November 29th last as reported has not returned.

There is frequent interchange of letters between the Vali and the Sheikh of Koweit and, as far as I have been able to learn, the correspondence is couched in very friendly terms.



Confidential.

From His Britannic Majesty's Consulate at Basrah to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, No. 1, dated 4th January 1906.

Sir,

There has been a marked improvement during the past year in the relations of the Sheikh of Koweit with the Vali of Basrah. This change has been noticed since their meeting at Safwan in February 1905. The Vali's attitude towards Mubarak is both friendly and conciliatory and the Sheikh, on his side, seems to do all he can to meet Mukhlis Pasha's wishes, both by subscribing liberally to the military barracks, which have recently been erected at Basrah, and to which Mubarak contributed T. £ 225: by regularly forwarding deserters from the Turkish troops in Qassim, who make their way to Koweit, and by safeguarding the postal communication between Basrah and [illegible], which continues by way of Koweit, as reported in my telegram 56 of November 4th 1905.

The Sheikh of Koweit's imprisoned agent Abdul Aziz es Salim, who was released and sent to Koweit with letters on November 25th last as reported has not returned.

There is frequent interchange of letters between the Vali and the Sheikh of Koweit and, so far as I have been able to learn, the correspondence is couched in very friendly terms.



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terms, the Sheikh styling himself "Kaimmakam of Koweit" and signing "your sincere friend". The bearer of one of these letters was Mubarak's overseer at Fao, who got into difficulty in October 1904 and applied for protection and asylum on board one of His Majesty's ships, as reported by Mr. Monahan in his telegrams 56 and 65 of that year. As this man is now employed as a go-between he would not appear to be any longer in danger of molestation by the Turkish authorities.

It is said that 40 men including 13 officers, deserters from Ghassim arrived in Koweit at the end of December and that arrangements are being made by Mubarak to convey them to Basrah.

Instructions have lately been given by the Vali to the Kolagassi in charge of the fort at Fao not to prevent the construction of embankments on the Sheikh's property at Fao, provided the work does not interfere with the fort. The Vali, in thanking the Sheikh of Koweit for his assistance in recovering deserters, requests him to continue to collect as many as he can and forward them. Orders have also been given to the officer in charge of the fort at Um Kasr to show all deference to Mubarak on his way from Koweit to Sefwan, from which I conclude that the

Sheikh





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(52)

Sheikh intends to visit this neighbourhood, though I have no information on the subject.

These incidents indicate the establishment of more friendly relations between Koweit and this Vilayet than formerly existed. The Vali may have some ulterior motive but I have not yet been able to discover it.

I have, etc.,

(Sd) F. E. Crow.





Confidential

To be registered

Town 58

Regd No. 741
of 13 3/06.

H.M.'s Consul Basra
to
H.M.'s Ambassador
Const: Jany. 4. 1906

Sir, There has been a marked improvement during the past year in the relations of the Sheikh of Koweit with the Vali of Basra. This change has been noticeable since their meeting at Sefwan in Feb. 1905. The Vali's attitude toward Mubarek is both friendly and conciliatory and the Sheikh on his side seems to do all he can to meet Mukhlis Pasha's wishes both by subscribing liberally to the military barracks which have recently been erected at Basra, and to which Mubarek contributed £T 625; by regularly forwarding deserters from the Turkish troops in



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in Ghassim, who made their way to Koweit, and by safeguarding the postal communication between Basra and Hassa, which continues by way of Koweit, as reported in my telegram No 56 of Nov. 4. 1900.

The Sheikh of Koweit's imprisoned agent, Abdul Aziz es Salim, who was released and sent to Koweit with letters on Nov 29 last as re-ported, has not returned.

There is frequent interchange of letters between the Vali and the Sheikh of Koweit and, as far as I have been able to learn, the cor-respondence is couched in very friendly terms, the Sheikh styling himself Caimakam of Koweit and signing 'your sincere friend'. The bearer of one of these letters was Mubarak's



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Mubarak's overseer at Fao who got into difficulty in October 1904 and applied for protection and asylum on board one of H.M.'s ships, as reported by Mr Monahan in his telegrams 56 and 65 of that year. As this man is now employed as a go between he would not appear to be any longer in danger of molestation by the Turkish authorities.

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The Vali, in thanking the Sheikh of



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of Koweit for his assistance in recovering deserters, requests him to continue to collect as many as he can and forward them. Orders have also been given to the officer in charge of the fort at Um Kasr to show all deference to Mubarak on his way from Koweit to Safwan; from which I conclude that the Sheikh intends to visit this neighbourhood, though I have no information on the subject.

These incidents indicate the establishment of more friendly relations between Koweit and this Vilayet than formerly existed. The Vali may have some ulterior motive but I have not yet been able to discover it.

sd. Crow

No. 3

Copy forwarded to H.M.'s Resident Bushire with the compliments of the undersigned.

Crow
H.M.'s Consul

Basra
March 3. 1906.



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(55)

To be registered

Copy.

Diary

Noted in Diary No 8 14/3

H.M.'s Consul Basra

to

H.M.'s Ambassador Conople.

No 10 - Feb. 24. 1906.

Sir, I am informed that Yusuf el Ibrahim, the prime instigator of the attack on Koweit in 1902, died near Hayil in January last.

I have &c

F. Crow.

This is confirmed

PZC

No 4.

Copy forwarded to H.M.'s Resident Bushire with the compliments of the undersigned.

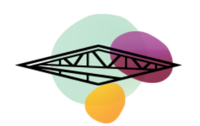
Basra

March 3. 1906.

F. Crow.

H.M.'s Consul.





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(56)

Telegram from Simla.

Dated 14th March 1906.

To

Assistant Resident, Bushire.

Knox's sketch Kuwait to Hafar urgently required.

Lorimer.

Telegram from Bushire.

Dated 14th March 1906.

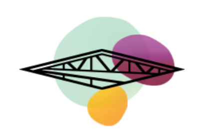
To

Lorimer, Simla.

No 580.(Your telegram of to-day) Aspirant. Sketch (sent to) Durandum. Foreign with (our letter No) Annotatu. 460 (28th February) Fictio. with request (to send) Viscanda. it on (to you) Fatiscis.

Trevor.

W.H





64 – 71 (57)

[*Confidential.*]

No. 620, dated Bushire, the 18th (received 27th) March 1906.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

Having spent three days at Koweit during last week, I have the honour to submit, for the information of Government, a few observations regarding the present aspect of affairs there.

I met Sheikh Mubarak on three occasions, and on 7th instant had a lengthy interview with him at the Agency, for the details of which I beg reference to the attached memorandum drawn up for me by Captain Knox who was likewise present.

It will be seen that during it several topics were touched upon, some of which are subjects of separate correspondence.

2. The trend of our conversation regarding the affairs of Central Arabia, which was started by Sheikh Mubarak, is of some significance. The possibility of the Ruler of Koweit smoking the calumet of peace with Bin Rashid, and Mubarak's own vision of a three-cornered compact between himself, Bin Rashid and Bin Saood, which would in practice probably be found to amount to a defensive alliance for resistance to Turkish expansion in Nejd and Hassa, is an interesting, if somewhat utopian, prospect to contemplate.

It is to be feared however that Sheikh Mubarak's own ambitions, as indicated in the second of the conditions suggested by him to Bin Rashid, are likely to form the chief obstacle to such a development.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that in the course of the strife of the last few years both Bin Saood and Bin Rashid must have been brought to realise what a strong position the Ruler of Koweit, territorially situated as he is, occupies both strategically and politically in relation to them, and they evidently see the advantage of maintaining friendly relations with him.

In connection with Bin Saood's doings I may remark it is possible that his recent telegram to the Porte was sent to disarm suspicion preparatory to some further move, as recent reports from Bahrein show that the Turks are now having trouble at Hofuf, in which it seems possible, if not probable, that Bin Saood has had an indirect hand.

3. As for Sheikh Mubarak's attitude towards ourselves, I do not consider that on the whole it gives any present cause for dissatisfaction or anxiety; rather the contrary. As long as the practical expression of his sentiments in regard to us undergoes no change, the improvement of the relations between Mubarak and the Turkish authorities at Basrah, within reasonable limits, is rather a convenience to us than otherwise. The Sheikh's treatment of our Agent and his invariable demeanour towards myself could not be more satisfactory and sensible than it is. He has always treated Captain Knox exceedingly well; more so than ever lately, and it is a matter of satisfaction to me as it will, I am sure, be to Government that our representative seems clearly to have gained Sheikh Mubarak's personal regard, and that he is visited freely in a friendly way by many of the Sheikh's subjects. He is thus making useful influence of a kind which seems to be all we require at present and which we can legitimately cultivate.

It is only in regard to the arms question that the position at the present moment leaves much to be desired, and this is partly owing to the fact that the general question of the Gulf arms traffic is *sub judice*. I do not know quite what line to take with the Sheikh in the event of our having an exhaustive exchange of views in this connection, and until I am sure of our intentions it seems better for me to keep off the subject and avoid any specific discussion with him.

4. The question of the conveyance of the Turkish postal bag to Al Hassa, of which a good deal has been said, has I think been somewhat misunderstood, and I concur with the Political Agent in thinking that there

5628 F. D.



is nothing in the existing working arrangement which need cause us to take exception to, or be exercised by, Sheikh Mubarak's connection with it.

Note of a conversation between the Resident in the Persian Gulf and SHEIKH MUBARAK of Koweit, dated 7th March 1906.

On 7th March 1906, at 4 P.M., the Sheikh of Koweit returned the informal visit paid by the Resident on the previous day.

The present interview lasted about an hour and a half, and Sheikh Mubarak was friendly and cordial as usual.

(1) The prospects of peace in the interior.

The Sheikh informed the Resident that he thought he would be interested to hear that he had lately, on 24th February (29th Zi-ul-Haj), received a letter from Bin Rashid couched in friendly language and proposing that Sheikh Mubarak should be on the same terms of friendship with him as the Rulers of Koweit had been with his uncle and grandfather before him. The Sheikh said that he had replied to Bin Rashid that he, Mubarak, was a man who loved peace and quietness and would welcome friendly relations with him, provided that Bin Rashid would keep within his own boundaries and not harass his neighbours, and was really sincere in his desire for peace.

The Resident, in the way of friendly interest, asked how peace could be arranged between the two; whether a personal meeting would be necessary or whether trusted messengers would be sent.

The Sheikh replied that it would be done by correspondence and that a meeting would be unnecessary. He proceeded to sketch the terms on which, in his opinion, a reconciliation between him and Bin Rashid could be considered practicable.

These were :—

(i) That Bin Rashid should have Chhaffa (Kaffa) and Hail, and the Bedouins of Jebel Shammar.

(ii) That he, Bin Sabah, should have Koweit, Aneyza, Boreyda, Sedeyr, and Washm and should control the tribes occupying them.

(iii) That Bin Saood should have Nejd and the Wadi Dowasir.

The Resident asked if Sheikh Mubarak thought that he would be able to keep the parties to their agreement with himself and with one another; and the Sheikh replied that he could.

The Resident then asked whether under such circumstances Bin Rashid would have sufficient income to enable him to live without harrying his neighbours, and Sheikh Mubarak replied that he would have Hail and Chhaffa, the Zakat of Shammar and the produce of forays on the Harb and Aneyza tribes between Hail and Medina.

Asked what view the Turks would, in his opinion, take of this triple alliance, Sheikh Mubarak replied that they would undoubtedly regard it with disfavour.

(2) The relations between Bin Sabah and Bin Saood.

The Resident then asked whether the relations between Sheikh Mubarak and Bin Saood continued the same as formerly; to which Sheikh Mubarak replied that they did, and that Bin Saood still listened to his advice. Major Cox then thanked the Sheikh for his co-operation in ascertaining the truth regarding Bin Saood's alleged intention to visit Oman.

Mubarak rejoined that Seyyid Feisal of Maskat had also written to him and that he had told His Highness that there was no cause for apprehension, and that Bin Saood had quite enough to do where he was for some time to come.

A reference was then made to the long telegram sent from Bushire to Constantinople through Jasim bin Thani on behalf of Bin Saood. Sheikh Mubarak was asked what inference he drew from the fact that Bin Saood had not consulted him before, and regarding its despatch. The Sheikh said that he had received full details from Bin Saood's messenger, Mussad bin Suweilim,



who sent the telegram, but admitted that he had heard nothing on the subject direct from the Bin Saood family or from Abd-ur-Rahman. He thought this was because the telegram had been inspired by Sheikh Jasim bin Thani, of whom he spoke in no very favourable terms.

(3) Visit to Koweit of Nasir bin Mubarak the outlaw relative of the Sheikh of Bahrein.

Sheikh Mubarak next mentioned that Nasir bin Mubarak of the El Khalifah family had just been paying him one of his periodical visits and had only left a couple of days before. He continued that Nasir had told him of his meeting with Captain Prideaux, and had gone on to ask him (Sheikh Mubarak) to put in a good word for him to the Resident with a view to a reconciliation being effected between himself and Sheikh Esa.

Sheikh Mubarak agreed with the Resident in thinking that Sheikh Esa would resent any overtures on behalf of Nasir Mubarak, and that it would be difficult to alter the latter's circumstances during Sheik Esa's lifetime.

(4) A distinctive flag for Koweit.

The Resident then introduced the topic of the flag and ships' articles to be carried by Koweit vessels.

It may be mentioned here that the Resident had brought with him a specimen flag of the pattern previously selected by Sheikh Mubarak with the addition of the word "Koweit" in Roman letters as well as Arabic.

The "articles" were read over to the Sheikh and it was explained that it was proposed that the English translation should be verified by the signature of the Political Agent, and this the Sheikh considered would be an advantage. Sheikh Mubarak approved of the "articles" with the exception of the item "Name of Nakhoda." To this he objected, as the Nakhodas were always changing.

The Sheikh then inspected the flag, and after doing so said that he would lay before the Resident what appeared to him the objections to the use of the flag as now shown him, and that then, if the Resident did not consider the objections of any weight, he would be prepared to order his subjects to adopt the new pattern.

The Sheikh then explained his objections at some length. He recited his grievances against the Turks and their oppression in the matter of his Fao date gardens and their ingratitude for all he had done in their behalf. He clearly showed that he considered that all the trouble he experienced at their hands was due to his friendly attitude towards the British Government. [He laid some stress on the fact that on an occasion when the Basrah Commandant came to call on His Majesty's Consul at Basrah, and one of the Sheikh's servants happened to be in the room, the Consul instead of openly acknowledging Sheikh Mubarak's position and recommending his servant to the good offices of high Turkish officers, told the servant to scuttle away and hide himself.]

Might be eliminated.
P. Z. Cox.

He said in conclusion that he would accept the flag as it stood if we would give him a written guarantee to protect him against any consequences that might arise to him from its use.

It proved, on further enquiry, that it was the addition of the English characters to which he objected. The reason for this addition was thoroughly explained to him, but the explanation did not remove his objections and he was therefore told that the European lettering was only a useful addition and not an essential, and he then expressed himself as quite ready to adopt the flg, without the English letters, and combined with the "Articles," for use by his subjects.

(5) The late Yusuf bin Brahim of Doura.

Sheikh Mubarak next informed the Resident that Bin Rashid had sent a messenger to Meshhed Ali, who had laid hands on all the money belonging to Yusuf bin Brahim in that place.

Sheikh Mubarak then went on to explain that he too had claims against the house of Bin Brahim; that account books, in Arab merchants' dealings, were the only evidence, and that the deposits belonging to himself in the hands



of Abdul Aziz bin Brahim, the present representative, amounted to Rs. 1,30,000, and that the advances against him were Rs. 70,000 showing a balance of Rs. 60,000 in his favour.

He said that Abdul Aziz at present resided at Surat in the Bombay Presidency and would certainly contest the claim, and that he (Sheikh Mubarak) would be glad of assistance from the Resident to enable him to obtain a settlement of the accounts and the payment of the balance due to him. He said he would be glad to appoint an Agent who would take the account books to Bombay for examination.

In this connection Sheikh Mubarak seemed to be only putting forward a feeler and did not make any definite proposals.

(6) The general position of Sheikh Mubarak's affairs.

In conclusion the Resident asked Sheikh Mubarak whether he could inform Government that his affairs generally were, as they seemed to be, in a satisfactory and prosperous condition. Mubarak replied that they were. Asked, "as regards the Turkish authorities?" he rejoined, "yes; just at present they are satisfactory but it costs me £1,500 Turkish a year in douceurs to their officials to maintain that position."

The Sheikh then expressed his gratitude for the amount of British protection received; declared that the peace and rest he now enjoyed were, he knew, the result of British support; and that he desired no other or better protectors. He concluded by referring to the pleasant relations which existed between himself and the British representative.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 5628 F. D.—31-3-06—67—W. G. B.



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(N) +

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BUSHIRE.

O/C

7d/ BC

18th March 1906.

Dear Sir Louis.

With my official letter No: 620 of today's date I have enclosed a memorandum of an interview between myself and Sheikh Mobarek drawn up by Captain Knox, in the course of which, allusion is made to the Busreh Consulate. If the memorandum is to go beyond the Foreign Department, I would recommend that the paragraph be eliminated, as it would only lead to correspondence without useful result. Knox tells me that in his intercourse with Sheikh Mobarek the latter has referred to the incident in question, times without number, and it evidently rankles in his mind. It is the same as that alluded to in the account of an interview which I had with him in July last (vide my office letter No:387 of 14th August 1905), and I did my best then to explain it away. It is unfortunate that Sheikh Mobarek should be possessed

by

Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secy: to the Govt: of India,
Foreign Department, Calcutta.



by the idea, as he seems to be, that the Busreh Consulate is disposed to be unfriendly to his interests, but the specific incident or misunderstanding here referred to, whatever it was, occurred I believe in the time of an acting incumbent, Mr: Monahan, and not in Mr Crow's time, and no good object would be gained by reviving it now.

P.Z.C.



Confidential

Bahrein

9th March 1906

My dear Major

I have heard with surprise from Bin Saud's man, Musaad bin Suweilim, that he never called on you after all at Bushire. It seems that his real object was, in the typical Arab way, to despatch a message by telegraph to Constantinople from old Jasim bin Thani testifying to Bin Saud's loyalty &



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general worthiness, to have the way to his contemplated attack on Hasa! ~~than~~ Musaad thinks that Bin Saud is at the bottom of the recent trouble in Hofuf, reported in my Diary of this week, but whether he is or not, it seems pretty certain that he will be tempted to take advantage of it, & Musaad, who leaves



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tomorrow for Busel, expects to be back again in Bahrein & Bushire at an early date with more telegrams. I told him that I thought the Amir was acting unwisely in telegraphing in this style to the Turks, as, if he admits himself to be an Ottoman subject & then goes into rebellion, we can't possibly help him. He replied that the Amir has always been careful not to give himself away in writing or by telegraph at all,



& that he has never corresponded with the Porte except through the medium of some friend such as Mubarak or Jasim. The old man seems to be in rather bad health, as he fainted in my Office, but as he is accompanied by his two sons, I suppose Bin Saud's work won't suffer. I have given him a letter for Bin Saud, asking for his cooperation in the settlement of the piracy & Behaih questions, if he comes this way again, & have told Musaad verbally that I would like to meet the Amir in the desert, if he would send Rafiqs for me next cold weather.

Yours sincerely



D.O. No. 14

British Consulate 77

P/P Please Pt.

Mohammerah March 17/06

Dear Cox,

I heard that armed men were going to bin Brahim's house at Daura every night, also that Yusuf bin Brahim was dead. I called on Mirza Hamza and asked him, he confirms both rumours. Yusuf died at Hāïl, Salih his brother returned this week from Mecca. He called, but Mirza Hamza was down with fever and could not see him. He went to Daura. Mirza Hamza has sent one of the tribal Sheikhs to attend the fatiha khani and has

instructed



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instructed him to see if he can find out anything there. He is of opinion that Salih and his friends are not capable of doing much as none of them is as clever as, or prepared to spend money as, Yusuf did; but it remains to be seen if he will give up or become more active as a result of his brother's death. Mirza Hamza expects the latter.

The late Razook Anguri was one of Sheikh Mubarek's friends and it is suspected that ~~this~~ his murder was organized by bin Rashid and bin Ibrahim's agents.

As to Sheikh Mubarek's nephews, Mirza



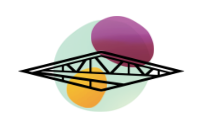
79

Hamza says there is a proposal that they should reside here or at Zein (opposite) under the Sardar Arfa's eye. Sheikh Mubarek is agreeable to this and the present seems a suitable time to carry it through, when the Sardar returns from the Karun. He does not think the nephews dangerous without Yoosuf.

Yours sincerely

J McDouall





Private

D/ys cupboard

Koweit
Persian Gulf.
14/2/06.

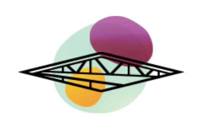
80

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My dear Major,

At my visit to the Sheikh this week, I gave him the gist of your letter about the B. I.

He again brought up the question of Bin Saood's visit to the Oman ports & repeated his remarks on the subject. It is curious how the idea haunts him. I felt obliged to tell him that we did not attach much importance to the report, though anybody with a grain of sense would see that Government would be annoyed by such a



proceeding on the part of Bin Saood.

He then introduced me to Abdul Aziz bin Badar & I told the latter to come & see me which he did on Monday morning. I did not get much out of him & am ashamed to have to own that this was mostly due to the extreme difficulty I found in understanding him.

He got into complicated Turkish law terms & used mutilated foreign words & the Bussorah dialect but



I gathered that he had dispatched 200 soldiers to Bussorah, that in some few cases he had to pay for redeeming their weapons & did not care to dun the Turkish Government for such a trifle.

The form his punishment has taken is very light & he owned that all the hardship he laboured under was a certain difficulty in transacting business & looking after his dategardens in Bussorah & the necessity of reporting his movements to the Turkish



authorities. One night will it
open arrest.
He told me that a previous Wali
had admitted that he was a
victim of oppression & that his
imprisonment was inflicted
with the view of putting
pressure on the Sheikh of Koweit.
It seems to me that Koweit
treats me better than ever.
I have made more acquaintances
& people are all very civil &
obliging. As I am too modest
to attribute this to my own
charms, I keep wondering
what this lull before the storm
means. The Turks have not



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even taken the trouble to protest.

Is there any chance of seeing you at Koweit & has anything more been heard of the Admiral & his visit to the Gulf? I ask because I am thinking of another tour in March & April. What of the Investigator?

Could you please let me know, if you have time, what are the hopes for my camel scheme?



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Yesterday evening, I was told that I might expect news of fighting in the interior this ayyam ul rabi. Bin Saood was compared to a slow steamer with lots of cargo & Bin Rashid to a mail steamer with little & the chances pretty evenly matched*. Caravans still come & go to Nejd.

Yours sincerely
S G Knox.



* The man who told me this is a shrewd fellow with good opportunities for judging. [signature]

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No: 677 of 1906.

British Residency and Consulate-General. 87

Confidential

Bushire, 25 March 1906.

From,

Major P.Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To,

Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
S I M L A.

Sir,

With reference to the entry No:380 in the Diary of this Residency for the week ending 18th March 1906, in which the death of Sheikh Mobarek's enemy Yusuf Ibrahim of Daura was reported, I have the honour to attach a copy of No:14 dated 17th March 1906. I a note on the subject furnished to me by His Majesty's Consul Mohammerah, for the information of the Government of India.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
P. Z. Cox Major,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





(68) 68

Bushire,
4th April 1906.

My dear Prideaux,

Your demi-official letter of 9th March reporting what passed at your interview with Bin Saood's messenger Musaad bin Sweilim, and telling me of your having given the latter a letter to his principal, alarmed me a little and I therefore telephoned in a hurried message to be posted to you by the out-going mail. I am afraid the wording of it must have appeared somewhat brusque but if it did I hope you put it down to the brevity of a hurried telephone message.

There is nothing theoretically incorrect of course in a British officer asking the co-operation of any Arab Chief in the interests of law and order, but neither the Behaih case nor the subject of piracies are matters which would have suffered in any way for a week or so's delay and it would have been safer to have made a reference before entering into communication with Bin Saood about either question.

The attitude which we are going to adopt towards Bin Saood now that he has settled himself in Nejd is evidently under the consideration of His Majesty's Government. I addressed the Government of India the other day a letter in connection with a reference from Knox which should elicit something definite. Meanwhile we need to be very cautious how we handle matters connected with the Wahabee, directly or indirectly.

Yours Sincerely,
(sd). P. Z. Cox.





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[Confidential.]

No. 835, dated Bushire, the 12th (received 23rd) April 1906.

From—CAPTAIN A. P. TREVOR, I.A., First Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf,

To—SIR LOUIS W. DANE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally noted letter which I have received from the Political Agent, Koweit, enclosing notes made by him during his tour to the south of Koweit.

No. 112, dated 28th March 1906.

2. I have not made any communication to the Superintendent, Persian Gulf Gazetteer.

No. 112, dated the 28th March 1906.

From—CAPTAIN S. G. KNOX, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,

To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have the honour to forward herewith the copy of some notes made during a short tour to the south of Koweit which may perhaps prove of interest. I would ask that the notes on the old Arab cemetery near Wara might be forwarded to the Superintendent, Persian Gulf Gazetteer.

Notes of a tour by Captain S. G. Knox to the south of Koweit.

Saturday, 24th March.—About 2 P.M. Sheikh Diaij and I started out on our tour. He had got for me a good black mare which, he told me, was Bin Saood's gift of last year to Sheikh Malieh, Diaij's brother. Malieh told me later that he used to be a partizan of (Ibn) Rashid but that Bin Saood had brought him round by the gift of this mare, some camels and some money. He complained of Arab veterinary surgery and said that the Bedouins had fired the mare for a cold and ruined her. Though quiet and easy paced, she was sluggish.

We passed round by the Ras-ul-Arz beacon and found it absolutely sound though it would be the better for another coating of tar or even two. We saw a number of the townsmen's encampments on our road especially near the base of the Ras-ul-Arz. As we were approaching Funtass, we overtook an old man on a donkey who insisted on our stopping the night with him. It turned out to be a Jabir of the Al-i-Subah but he might easily have been mistaken for an old Arab fisherman. His pedigree connects in the following way:—

Jabir
- Subah
  - Mubarak (present Sheikh).
- Diaij
  - Fazil
    - Jabir (my host).

He must be a man of about 50 years old or even more, although he is a generation below the Sheikh; he is a good deal older than any of Sheikh Mubarak's sons. He gave us an excellent pillau of fowls in a decent little diwaniya facing the sea at Funtass and was very anxious to know if everything was to my liking. While we were waiting for dinner, Sheikh Salim, Sheikh Mubarak's



second son, came along to give me greeting. I cannot place this man. He has, as I think I have said before elsewhere, a great reputation among the Arabs but, behind a rather solemn, stately demeanour, he appears to me rude, sly or stupid or a combination of all three. One thing may, I think, be safely reckoned on that he will give Jabir, the rightful heir, a lot of trouble when Sheikh Mubarak dies.

After his first greeting to me, he plunged straight into local politics with Diaij. A rumour has come hot foot from Koweit that Sheikh Mubarak and Bin Rashid have made friends. It reached Koweit this morning before we left.

Sunday, 25th March.—We were out and on horseback fairly early this morning and rode on to Aboo Haleyfa where Malieh has a fort. As we passed out of Funtass, I noticed an uncommonly nice filly tethered by an Arab tent. Diaij told me that she belonged to Abdulla el Brahim er Rashid of the old Sheikh's family of Zubair, who was paying Sheikh Salim a visit. His sons were in such bad odour with the people of Zubair that they rose up against them and said that they would kill them, if they did not get out of the town.

We could not find Malieh at once, so we sauntered round the cultivation which seems fresher, greener and better cared for than it did at the time of my last year's visit.

The desert on the other hand was a good deal browner and wanted rain badly. (This rain fell yesterday, 27th March 1906.)

After exhausting the resources of Abu Haleyfa, we returned to Malieh's diwaniya; he came in almost at once and skilfully clearing out everybody, including his own brother Diaij, he told me to make a note of the fact that he had a claim on the Fao date-gardens which he intended to press on the old man's death, not now, he explained carefully, for he was afraid. He claims a half share on account of Ali, his son by his wife Haya, daughter of Subah and Mubarak's sister. He was going to ask me and the Resident to interfere. I said that it looked to me as if we should decline to move in the matter which seemed one for the Turkish Courts. He said "never mind! I am going to ask you later on and no one knows of this, not even my own brother, Diaij."

Malieh decided to ride with us to the tents of Bishr bin Roomi, the father of the Koweit pearl merchants, and then on to the treasure pillar which we had come all this way to see. About 11 A.M., we found the tents pitched in a hollow on the western slope of Adan ridge. We came first to the women's tents, four large ones, and went on to the Diwaniya tent, pitched about 200 yards away. Here Diaij woke up the Arabs slumbering after a heavy breakfast, by bringing down a kite with his shot gun and they came out rubbing their eyes and settling their Kafiyas to welcome us. Coffee came at once and breakfast shortly. A big bowl of sourish milk with butter floating in it formed the principal dish. There were plates of honey and the Bahrein citron jam, dates of course and the common sweetmeat, rahush of date juice and sesame flour. Thin wafer-like *chupattis* of about 18 inches diameter served as bread.

After breakfast, we rode off to the treasure pillar. This is a story from last Ramzan but it reached Koweit only a fortnight ago when Sheikh Jabir brought the *zaru* in from camp. An Awazimi had a dream telling him to dig by the Rijm-i-Sufaur and they gathered a party and went off to dig. As night fell, they found masonry and the dream, dreamt thrice by the way, was coming true and the party decided to come back and dig again the next day. They camped some little distance off and, in the night, one of the party saw a light at the ruins. He went up and saw two Dawasirs of their company playing the rogue and digging on their own account. They said that they had found nothing but fled the next day and have not been seen since.

The Awazimi continued digging and found remains of masonry in good condition but only, so it is said, one copper pice which Sheikh Mubarak handed over to me and I sent to the Superintendent, Persian Gulf Gazetteer.

On the way, Malieh rode along with me; poor Diaij had fallen behind, explaining to me that honey never agreed with him. This gave Malieh his



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opportunity of talking high treason for, though they will trust an Englishman, they will not trust their own brother and I betray no confidence for all they tell me is intended to reach Government. Mubarak was a miser who had 39 sources of income, none of which however helped to fill the mouths of his poorer kinsfolk. All was kept for himself and his sons. From the time of Sheikh Jabir, the grandfather, all the previous Sheikhs had drawn a date ration from the Turkish Government as Kaimmokams but the pay was stopped after the murders. In the old days, the Sheikh served out this ration to the various members of the Subah family and the Sheikh's predecessors had been "ajaweed."

"This man had, it was true, brought the Sheikhdom to a pitch of power never before dreamt of (I pictured to myself the Sheikh of Koweit whom Pelly speaks of as sitting the whole afternoon on Koweit strand to see Pelly's boat floated and wondered when Mubarak would do the like for me) and he went out with a swelling purse to gain the plaudits of the beggars of the market place but completely neglected his poorer relatives.

He would not even like my talking with Malieh or listening to this conversation." There was an artless obviousness about this last remark that made it difficult to repress a smile.

Malieh had compromised the claim of Ali at the time of the murders—half to himself and half to Sheikh Mubarak—but, since the English had come in and Mubarak's position had become more secure, he had ceased to pay even that half.

We reached the spot in the early afternoon and found that it had been dug into irregularly everywhere by the treasure seeking Bedouins, who have irretrievably ruined any chance of preserving and uncovering these interesting monuments. Otherwise this might have been done at a small cost.

I took bearings—to Wara hill 258° and to the west hill of Burgan 214°. We found the remnants of a man's skull in one tomb and I think it probable that the place is nothing but a cemetery of the old time kings of Wara. Anywhere but in Arabia they would be called village headmen. Unmoved, I have overheard myself described as "of the kings of the English". I measured one of the tombs in the best preservation. It may be described as a box of the best *Jus* or local mortar about 4 inches thick. The length was 5 feet 1 inch (? 3 thara or cubits), breadth 1 foot 8 inches(?thara) and height about 2 feet. The whole buried about 5 to 6 feet including the 2 feet depth of box. The graves lie east and west and probably the head to the west, judging from the position of the skull bones we found. No inscriptions.

There are a large number of stones, apparently piled on top of the *Jus* boxes. They are irregular in shape and average about 2 cubic feet. They must have come all the way from Wara, a distance of 6 miles. It would require a sturdy camel to carry any two of them. A space of 100 feet square would cover all the stones and graves as I judge. They are on high ground and the present Wara cultivation lies between them and Wara hill.

We returned to Bishr's tents and dined and slept the night there. Nothing could exceed the pleasant hospitality of their welcome and the same might be said of the pleasant reception I met with everywhere along this tour. The old man Bishr wanted to know when I would come again and was interesting about the Ceylon pearl fisheries and asked me for information of which I had less than he. He told me that he had ventured his all this season and spoke of his divers as his sons, told me that if it was a failure he would sell me his house on the "seef." He said he would have been glad to have contracted with the Ceylon Government for their fisheries but they would have none of him. He predicted that the Company which was now buying would run the business at a loss after the first three years as there was grave danger of the fisheries being overfished when they would either never recover or only after a very long period.

Our return journey direct to Koweit was without incident.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C 29 F. D.—2 5 06.—60.—R. S. W.





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Telegram.

TO , Foreign , Simla.

No: 162 , dated 28-4-06.

(P). The Shaikh of Mahomrah has received a letter by special messenger from the Shaikh of Koweit informing him that Bin Rashid & his immediate following have been surprised & annihilated by Bin Saood.

(Cox).

P.Z.C.

see p 108





(72)

No. 1662 E. B. 103

ial.

FROM

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA *in the Foreign Department,*

To

Major P. Z. Cox, C. I. E.,
Offg. Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf, Bushire.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 1277 Date 3.5.06 PERSIAN GULF

Dated Simla, the 24th April 1906.

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 460, dated the 28th February 1906, I am directed to request that you will acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the interesting and useful report submitted by Captain S. G. Knox, Political Agent, Koweit, on the subject of a tour made by him in January 1906 to Rigai and Hafar in the hinterland South of Koweit.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

R. E. Holland.

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Copy to [illegible]

PTO



104 No. 1019 dated 4th May 1906.

Copy forwarded to Captain S.G. Knox, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to his letter No 35, dated 7th February 1906.

P.L.C. Captain,
First Asst. Resdt.
(In charge current duties.)



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(73)

[illegible] at	INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.
Main / Minor.	Daily No. ______ 7/5/08 190 Monthly No. ______
by	from ______

Confidential

Trans. at / Main / Minor. / by	Class.	No.	Words.	Original date and time tendered by sender.	OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
					Vid

To Dear Trevor

Flw has passed. Bourgeois Henjam & Heynssens Bushire Solat el Moulk's delegate and the Consular Agents of France and of Turkey want ~~Persepolis~~ or Mozaffer to go Gais to settle claims Please answer at once in Hendjam the boat being waiting for reply ——

(2) From Loyal Subjects Nejd Bushire to Secretary Imperial Grand Vizier Constantinople Governor Nejd Najib Pasha and Beg Bashee Mahmood are creating disturbance here we are afraid bin Saood will seize the country advisable arrange send immediately reliable Governor

Yours Sincly

[illegible signature]



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(74)

Recd. at Main Minor by

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

Confidential

7-6-1906

Daily No. Monthly No.

from

Trans. at Main Minor by

Dear Trevor

No.	Words	Original date and time tendered by sender.	OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

The following was sent yesterday

To Secretary Grand Vezier Constantinople

People Hassa have previously advised you and Basra Velayet of disloyalty Governor and Mahmood Bey and their friendship with Bin Saood and losses sustained in Consequence Favour of your immediate attention this matter is desired either by appointing another Governor or causing enquiry to be made

From - Alli bin Abdullah bin Issa

Sender Signs Abool Kassim

Yours Sincerely

[signature]





Confidential

Pt: Regst. 415.

(75)

Koweit
12th June 1906.

Copy in 53/32 I
(Misc – Visits).

My dear Major,

I am sending you herewith a copy of a confidential report on the visit of Khalid ul Aun & some curious details about the arms question. It is a pity that our position is so thoroughly misunderstood, but I am afraid that there is little doubt that the general impression conveyed by the report, about the Arab mind is a true one. It will believe anything except the truth.

Another thing which is



exercising my mind perhaps more than it should is the way that Sheikh Mobarak & myself are drifting apart. His last visit was paid to me on the 25th May & the visit before that was paid on the 13th March. Of course, during March & April he was out in camp a lot but still I do not think that he should allow 20 days to pass without coming to visit me. Here are dates collected from the diaries.

7th & 13th March Sheikh's visits

17th March Sheikh left Koweit.
26th do. visit of Jabir
9th to 14th April. Sheikh in
Koweit. No visit paid to me,
though that is accounted for by
the fact that I spent a good deal
of my time on board the Hermes.
17th April Jabir's visit
19th do. do.
11th May. Sheikh returned to Koweit.
19th to 21st May. Sheikh in camp.
25th May. Sheikh's visit.

Besides this, he never told me
of Khalid ul Aun's visit, nor has
he mentioned his own early
departure for Muhammerah.
I don't know how far I have a
right to expect him to keep me



informed in such matters but
I think it would only be civil.
For the present, I have
confined myself to letting
him know through our respective
Mollahs that I have noticed
that he does not return my
visit & that it will look odd if,
in the diaries in which all
such visits are recorded the
Resident sees the P. A. constantly
visiting the Sheikh but no return
visit being paid.
When the Sheikh is in camp,
Jabir too neglects me pretty
consistently. Thus from the 17th
March to the 11th May, he visited
me three times &, when he came



(77)

on the 19th April, it was to find out what mischief Sheikh Daij & I were plotting together.

Of course, my private feelings (though I hate a post between the Chief I am looking after & myself) are of no importance but I think there is a courtesy due to the British representative which should be observed & that I have no right to overlook it.

To sulk in my own house because my visits are not returned seems rather more futile than to go on paying visits without

receiving any & I should be glad of instructions as to what course of action to pursue, in case the informal remonstrance I have put in bears no fruit or, what is still more likely, bears fruit for a short time & then the visits are allowed, through slackness, again to fall into arrears. I believe it is only slackness though it is just possible that it may be with a view of heightening his own importance.

I may mention that the



fact of the Sheikh's not paying me visits has attracted some attention in Koweit & people are talking (I think unreasonably) of the Sheikh inclining towards the Turk. He probably is upset by his friend the Wali's dismissal & I think it not improbable that he will try to see some Turkish officials on his visit to Muhammerah with a view to squaring things with the new regime.

I have a curious kind of influence with him but unfortunately it takes the form of his manoeuvring to



outwit me instead of his accepting my proposals. I hamper him but do not stop him.

As regards the general attitude of the merchants, I have nothing to complain of. They come to my house nearly every evening & talk freely & pleasantly & I am careful to avoid controversial subjects. They never ask themselves but will always come when asked. To this I must make one exception, a very recent & rather curious one. The other day, Sheikh Moosa, about whom I have had a



good deal to say in connection
with the arms trade, asked
to be allowed to come.
I gathered that it was with
the view of removing an unfort-
unate impression but, though
he was very polite & friendly, we
talked as if we had never
heard of such a thing as a
rifle in our lives.
I may note here with regard
to Khalid ul Awn's visit that
a man who ought to know
commented that it would



never have been paid, if there had been a Wali in Basra but that Khalid had taken the opportunity of no high official being present in the Wilayat to slip away.

Please forgive a long rambling letter on many subjects & believe me

Yours sincerely

S. G. Knox.

P.S. By the way, if you should think it right to



address the Sheikh on the visit question, please don't do so without consulting me first. If my remonstrance should bear fruit & a letter came, it might cause unpleasantness. If nothing comes of my action, perhaps a letter from you would be the best thing to be done

JK



(80B)

Gulf has become very hostile & suspicious of our intentions of late.

Since Mobarak's return from M'rah, I have not been to see him & he has not visited me. I should be glad of instructions on this subject. For the past month & more, neither he nor Sheikh Jabir have visited me

Yours sincerely

S G Knox

P.S. Mobarak's last visit



was when I lectured him about the arms' trade on 25th May.
JK





Copy in file 9/43 (Arms)

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Bolt Regt No 416

The main objects of Sheikh Khalid's visit are said to be

(1) To reconcile the Bin Saood and Bin Rashid families.

(2) To make arrangements to smuggle arms and ammunition into Turkish Arabia.

It is said that Sheikh Mobarak will impose an export duty of reals four per each rifle exported from Koweit and that he will issue such a certi-ficate as without betraying himself will show Khalid bin Aon whence the arms have come. Khalid will also recover reals 4 per rifle and allow the consignment to pass into Turkish terri-tory without difficulty.

The Sheikh has warned the merchants smuggling arms of the above arrangement and his own servants who watch the trade to keep it strictly confidential and not to allow it to reach the ears of the British Consul or his staff.

The informant also states that Sheikh Mobarak some days ago, in conversation with some merchants said that he had informed the British Consul here that arms are not imported here by bugalows but they are imported by steamers and that he (British Consul) should not be so inquisitive about the arms trade here. Some of the merchants sitting there told Sheikh Mobarak that the reason why the English wish to stop

the





(81)

the importation of arms here is plain; on a convenient opportunity, they will seize Koweit which, if the Arabs have no arms, will be defenceless. The condition of Bahrein and its Sheikh is greatly exercising their minds. He (the Sheikh of Bahrein) has been made to sit down in a corner like a widow without any voice. If he were to go against the British and do anything he will at once be taken to Bombay like his nephew Ali. (sic)

The Sheikh has, it is said, told some of the merchants that he has not done a foolish thing like the Sheikh of Bahrein. He has got a document from the British saying that they will be here like his other subjects and that they will never interfere in the affairs of this country. If he sees anything opposed to this, he will be against the British.





fidential.

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(82)

No. 2567 E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 1917 Date 27.JUN.1906 PERSIAN GULF.

By order, etc.,

R. E. Holland

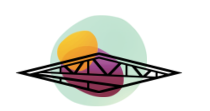
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,

Simla;

The 20th June 1906.

Letter from Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey, No.292, dated 1st May 1906. (Received with letter from the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India ~~Office~~ Office, London, No. 21 dated 25th May 1906.)





108 (83)

ARABIA. [May 7.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 2.

[15448] No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 292.)

Sir, *Constantinople, May* 1, 1906.

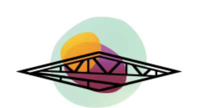
WITH reference to my despatch No. 189, Confidential, of the 20th March, and to previous correspondence respecting the proposed visit of the Wahabi Emir to the Pirate Coast and Oman, I have the honour to report that I have received telegrams from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Jeddah and His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, stating that news has been received in both places of fighting between Abdul Aziz-bin-Rashid, of Nejd, and the Wahabi Emir Abdul Aziz-bin-Saood, in which the former and 250 of his followers have been killed.

In my despatch No. 373 of the 16th May, 1904, I drew attention to the serious consequences which might ensue if Ibn Saood succeeded in his object of conquering Hail, the stronghold of the Nejd Emirate, and re-establishing a Wahabi dynasty throughout the centre of Arabia; and if the present report of the defeat and death of Ibn Rashid prove true, the result can only be to enhance the importance of Ibn Saood and to oblige us to watch with greater care his relations with the Sheikh of Koweit and the Trucial Chiefs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[1995 *g*—2]

+ See p 102





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ONFIDENTIAL. No. 2577 E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political esident in the Persian Gulf, for information.

See p 2 et seq for p/p

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 1919 Date 27.JUN.1906 PERSIAN GULF.

By order, etc.,

R E Holland

Assistant Secy. to the Govt. of India.

REIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
20th June 1906.

Communication from Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey, No. 224 Secret and confidential) dated 3rd April 1906.

(Received with letter from the Secretary Political Department, ndia Office, No. 17, dated 27th April 1906.)

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish rabia for the week ending 21st May 1906.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 151 F. D.—1-6-1905.—6,000—B. N. D.





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(*Received on the 14th May 1906, with the Political Secretary's letter No. 17, dated 27th April 1906.*)

ASIATIC TURKEY. [April 9.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 3.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received April 9.*)

(No. 224. Secret and Confidential.)

Sir, *Constantinople, April 3, 1906.*

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, reporting the outbreak of serious disturbances at Suk-el-Shiyukh, in the Muntifik, owing to the refusal of the El Hacham (Hidjam) tribes to pay the Government taxes, and the efforts of the local authorities to collect them.

I have received through a secret and confidential source confirmation of the serious character of the revolt of these tribes, and of the repulse suffered by the Imperial troops which were dispatched against them.

The Grand Vizier, in a communication addressed to the Minister of War, states that the Vali of Bussorah had telegraphed that on the 24th ultimo, in a conflict between the troops and the Arab tribes, 100 soldiers were killed or wounded, and their Commander, Colonel Moustapha Bey, having lost his head, the Mutessarif of Amara, together with Lieutenant-Colonel Aziz Bey, who was in the district, had been dispatched in all haste to the scene of the encounter with detachments of troops, which were immediately mobilized from all sides.

The Minister of War replied that telegraphic instructions had been sent to the Vali and Commandant of Bussorah to proceed at once to the scene of the encounter with a considerable force collected from the surrounding districts, and also to the General of the VIth Army Corps to proceed to the spot in all haste with a considerable force taken from the head-quarters of the corps.

In a subsequent message the Grand Vizier communicated to the Minister of War a further telegram from the Vali of Bussorah, pointing out the impossibility of putting down the rebel tribes with the military force which had been dispatched to Suk-el-Shiyukh, and urging that three more battalions, 800 strong, should be sent at once to the scene of action.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 11.)

Sir, *Bussorah, March 5, 1906.*

There has been serious trouble among the Arabs at Suk-el-Shiyukh, in the Sanjak of Muntifik, resulting in considerable loss of life on the side of the Turkish troops, and the immediate recall of the Mutessarif of Muntifik to Constantinople. The cause of the disturbances appears to have been the persistent refusal of the El Hacham tribes during the past two years to pay taxes to Government, and the attempts of the authorities to enforce payment.

1



111

On the 11th ultimo the town of Suk-el-Shiyukh was surrounded by El Hacham Arabs, the inhabitants were under arms, temporary fortifications were thrown up, and fighting was going on. The El Hacham were aided by the Abu Hameydi and El Hassan tribes, and, as affairs were becoming serious, urgent representations were made to Bussorah for the dispatch of troops. 500 Redifs were sent from Nasriye and 200 from Amara, while 300 soldiers proceeded from Bussorah to the scene of action; 30 gendarmes, under Lieutenant Suleyman Effendi, were attacked by the El Hacham Arabs on their way to Suk-el-Shiyukh, and Suleyman Effendi was wounded. The Mutessarif of Nasriye and the Commandant of the troops proceeded to Suk-el-Shiyukh to direct operations, and artillery was used against the Arabs, who were finally repulsed, it is believed, after loss of life and destruction of property. The accounts of the fighting are, however, disjointed and confused, and up to the time of my leaving Amara on the 1st instant it was not clear to the minds of the Bussorah authorities what had precisely occurred. It is known on the Turkish side 16 soldiers were killed and 14 wounded, including a Major slightly and a Colonel Agassi severely wounded. I hear that the Mutessarif of Muntifik has left for Constantinople in obedience to a summons from the Sultan, who is said to be distressed at the loss of life occasioned by the disturbances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending 21st May 1906.

* * * * * *

I have just received an official notice that the post which left Baghdad for Damascus on the 26th April has been lost. It is only a short time ago that one of the mail carriers on this line was murdered on his way to Baghdad.

There is a chronic fued between the Shumurd and Zugurd tribes of Arabs who live in and near Nedjef. This has once more reached an acute stage. Abbas, son of the Sheikh of the Shumurd, has just been shot in the shrine at Nedjef, and it is said that the tribes have told the pilgrims to leave the place as they mean to have a free fight. I am informing the Vali of the news which has reached me and asking him to take steps to protect the lives and property of British subjects.

G. M. Press, Simla.—No. 200 F. D.—15-6-06.—35.—K P M.



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CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 2755 E/B.

A copy of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 2577-E.B., dated the 20th June 1906.

By order, etc.,

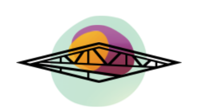
Gabriel

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
28th June 1906.

Extracts from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 28th May 1906.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 151 F. D.—1-6-1905—5,000—B. N. D.





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Extract from the diary of the Pol. Resdt. in Turkish Arabia for the week ending 28-5-6.

Please see entry in this Office diary for the week ending 7th May 1906. The following is a copy of a report sent by H.B.M's Consul at Basrah to H.B.M's Ambassador at Constantinople under date 12-5-6.

"I have received the following account from the Vali of events at Suk-el-Shiyuk subsequent to the fighting reported in my despatch No.11 of March 5th last.

"A succession of officials during the past three years have vainly tried to get the Arabs in Muntafik to pay their taxes which the latter state were unfairly assessed from the first, their lands and crops being rated out of all proportion to their value by the Local Government. The arrears are now considerable and the Government refuses to accept any reduction. Early in March the Mutasarif of Amarah was transferred temporarily to Nasariyeh, but his efforts to effect a settlement were not successful and the fighting ~~against~~ continued. On April 17th the Vali himself received orders to proceed to Muntafik with sufficient troops to restore order. The El Hacham and other Arab tribes round Suk-e-Shiyuk were by this time in open rebellion, and encouraged by their previous success against the Govt. troops, were no longer in the mood for parley. The Vali's proposals for a settlement of the taxation question on more suitable terms were rejected and certain small forts, occupied

by





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by the rebels, near the town had to be reduced. Friendly Arabs, who offered themselves as guides, and who appear to have treacherously misled the Vali and persuaded him to allow them to act as his advanced guard in order to lure him into danger, proceeded to turn the rebels out of the fort nearest the town. This was accomplished without opposition and the Vali marched after them himself with four battalions and two field guns and occupied the place. He then directed his Arab irregulars to execute the same manoeuvre in regard to the next fort. They absolutely declined to go on and while the discussion was being prolonged the hostile Arabs closed round the fort in large numbers and poured in a destructive and unexpected fire. The friendly Arabs fled and the Vali surrounded by a force superior to his own in numbers and better armed, seems to have been unable to use his artillery and was compelled to cut his way back to the town across reeds, marsh and rice fields, or date gardens intersected by broad irrigation channels, country illsuited for military operations and rendering the task of dragging the guns by no means easy. He reached Suk-el-Shiyukh in the evening in a pitiable plight with the loss of fourteen killed and twenty-four wounded, according to his own account and only saved his guns with the greatest difficulty.

"The rebels surrounded the town and sniped all

night





115 (89)

night but retired and disappeared completely in the day time. The Arabs of Muntafik remained practically in open rebellion and the Vali, on reporting the circumstances was, as I informed Your Excellency by telegram on the 11th instant, immediately summoned to Constantinople."

????????????????????????????????

Extract from the diary of the Pol. Resdt. in Turkish Arabia for the week ending 28-5-6.

X X X X X X

The Vice-Consul at Karbala reports that fighting has been going on at Nejef from the 17th to the 21st May and that the Shumurds and Zugurds still occupy their fortified posts. In the course of the disturbance some Persian subjects are said to have been killed, the larger bazar is said to have been looted, and I have heard that two British subjects have been robbed.

On the 12th May an attempt was made to board one of Lynch & Co's steamers. It is now reported that on the 11th May a Turkish steamer was robbed of some bales of goods near, and above the junction of the Euphrates and Tigris, that the Turkish steamer which left Baghdad on the 20th May was fired at, and that another Turkish steamer which

left





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left Baghdad on the 23rd May was also fired at.

Three passangers are said to have been killed. The Sultan's property, known as the Saniyah, near Amarah is probably in danger of damage at the hands of the Arabs,

X X X X X X





(91)

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'idential.

No. 2776 -E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No.2567-E.B., dated 20th June 1906.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 2075 Date 11. JUL. 1906 PERSIAN GULF.

By order, etc.,

Daniell

Under Secretary to the Govt.of India.

IGN DEPARTMENT,
i m l a;
30th J u n e 1906.

Despatch from Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey,(No.309-Secret and Confidential), dated 8th May 1906. (Received with letter from the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London, No. 22, dated 1st June 1906.)





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(92)

(*Received on 18th June 1906, with Political Secretary's letter No. 22, dated 1st June 1906.*)

ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[May 14.]

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received May 14*).

(No. 309. Secret and Confidential.)

CONSTANTINOPLE;
May 8, 1906.

SIR,

With reference to my despatch No. 292 of the 1st instant, I learn from a secret and confidential source that the Vali of Bussorah has informed the Vali

15



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of Baghdad, who has in turn reported to the Ottoman Government, that the armed conflict in Kassim between Ibn Rashid and Ibn Saood, which resulted in the death of the former and the defeat of his followers, was the result of the attempts of Sheikh Mubarek-es-Sabah, of Koweit, to bring about a reconciliation between these two Arab Chiefs. The Wali of Bussorah accused Mubarek of plotting and treachery, and asked that the necessary military steps might be taken at once to restore order and arrest Ibn Saood.

In a telegram sent by the Grand Vizier to the Vali of Baghdad in reply to this message, the opinion is expressed that the position of affairs in Kassim and the neighbouring districts, brought about by the death of Ibn Rashid, is the direct outcome of the recent encroachments of the military authorities in the province on the functions of the civil authorities. The Vali is to warn the Commander of the VIth Army Corps that all interference in civil matters must now cease, and that no time must be lost in taking steps to restore tranquillity in the disturbed districts.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

16

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C-147 F. D.—27-6-06.—36—BBC.



S 1910—500-3-06

120

(93)

No. 1640 of 1906.

o/c

BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE-GENERAL:

Bushire, the 17th July 1906.

A copy of the accompanying communication is forwarded to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information.

By order,

[signature] 17/7/06 Lieutenant,

Special/First Assistant Resident.

Endorsement No: 2776-E.B. dated 30th June 1906, from the Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





(94)

CONFIDENTIAL.

(121)

No. 2842 E/B.

The foregoing extract is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 2755-E/B., dated the 28th June 1906.

By order, etc.,

V. Gabriel

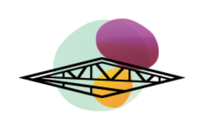
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,

Simla;

The 6th July 1906.

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 4th June 1906.





122 (95)

(Copy.)

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 4th June 1906.

X X X X X X X

Nedjef is still in a very disturbed condition. Most of the shops are closed and I am told that a skin of water costs about Rs. 1-12-0. The Turkish Government has obtained possession of the persons of some of the Sheikhs of both the Shumurds and the Zugurds : other members of these tribes are said to have been committing many raids on the road from Kufa to Nedjef.





D/O copy filed in 53/32 I 123 (96)

Copy of a letter dated 30th July 1906, from Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire, to Shaikh Mubarak al Subah, Koweit.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

(After greeting and inquiry after his health.)

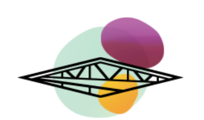
When I last visited Koweit with His Excellency The Admiral I was very sorry to miss seeing you owing to your absence from Koweit, but I thought it was on account of the severe illness of your deceased son Fahd and at a time of anxiety ~~and~~ did not trouble you with letters. Since then, as you may have heard from Captain Knox, I have been continuously absent from headquarters, and only returned two days ago after two months in India.

It grieves me much to read on my return that in the short time of my absence your two sons Fahd and Sabah have been taken from you. This is a heavy calamity and I beg you to accept my deepest sympathy in your bereavement. It is difficult for us to understand these things but we must bow to the will of God. Pleas convey my condolences also to your son Shaikh Jabir.

Another matter too has been a souce of much regret to me to read and this is that while I have been away some misunderstanding has interfered with the pleasant and frequent intercourse which had always been customary between you and Captain Knox. I am delighted to learn however by the mail which has come just after my own return, that any little estrangement that there may

have





124 (97)

have been has now been removed,

I have always found your relations with Captain Knox so pleasant when I have visited Koweit that it would be a great disappointment to me if anything were to come between you and him. As, I am sure, is not hidden from you, it is the unchanging wish of my Government and its Officers to honour you and maintain your dignity in every way possible: and I cannot doubt, but that it is your own wish also to reciprocate in this respect and remembering that our trusted representative at Koweit being the only Englishman in your territory, he should have an honourable and honoured position in your eyes, and those of your subjects I hope that this will always be the case.

Now regarding my absence in India I went first to Simla and was honoured with a visit to the new Viceroy His Excellency Lord Minto, who talked to me about the affairs of the Gulf. His good will to you and interest in your affairs and prosperity is no less than that of his honoured predecessor Lord Curzon. With regard to the latter you will, I know, be very sorry to hear that within the last few days he has suffered a grievous calamity in the death of his wife Lady Curzon, after a short illness,

Perhaps you would like to send him a letter or telegram of condolence. He would, I am sure, appreciate it. If you care to send any message to me I will forward it to its destination.

On



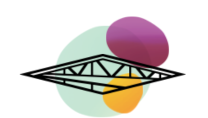
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Perhaps you would like to send him a letter or telegram of condolence. He would, I am sure, appreciate it. If you care to send any message to me I will forward it to its destination.

On



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On my return from Simla I went to Bombay to look at some steam launches, and there saw and talked with Shaikh Ali bin Ahmed of Bahrein. He is importuning much to be allowed to return to Bahrein and, if Shaikh Esa can give guarantees for his good behaviour I may be able to recommend Government to let him go back before very long. I think he should have learnt wisdom by now and will not give trouble again. This is all the news that I have.

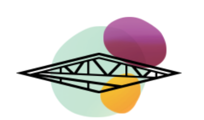
What is your news? What is the state of things in Nejd and the state of your relations with Bin Saood and with the family of bin Rashid?

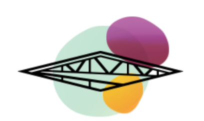
Finally I trust you had a pleasant visit to our friend Shaikh Khazal and found him in the best of health and prosperity.

I hope I shall receive your esteemed letter before long and hear good news from your side.

May you be preserved.

PZC



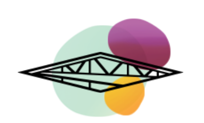


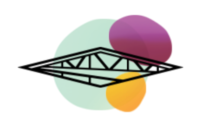
(99) 126

الى الشيخ مبارك الصباح

Translation of foregoing letter to Sh. Mubarak

بعد اهدا السلام الوافر والثنا المتكاثر والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم الحميدة ان شاء الله تعالى انها في كمال الصحة والعافية والاستقلال
وغير ذلك ضمنا نعرض لجنابكم الشريف اننا في وصولنا الدفعة الاخيرة الى الكويت بصحبة جناب ... والاجل الافخم ميجر ... شفنا
بوسطة غياب جنابكم عن الكويت اذ صرنا محرومين من فوز مشاهدتكم والمخاطبة معكم ولكن حسب ظني ان غيبتكم من سبب المرض الذي العارض
الى المرحوم ولدكم فهد وهذه كان المقرون بالتشويش ما حببنا نصدع جنابكم بارسال المكاتيب بعد ذلك حسب ما بلغ سامع ...
من جنابكم ايام القبطان ناكس اننا متوالين كنا غايبين عن مركز مأموريتنا وقبل تاريخ يومين رجعنا من الهند بعد توقفنا
هناك بمدة شهرين الان بعد وصولنا صرنا متاملين اذ قرانا المكاتيب ... ولدكم الذين هم فهد وصباح افتقدوا عنكم
وانتقلوا الى رحمة الله بالهاء داهية عظيمة ومصيبة جسيمة نسئل المولى الاعظم لكم الاجر ورزقكم الصبر وانا نستدعي ان تجعلونا
شركائكم في هذه المصيبة اسرار هذا القبيل حوادث كثيرة مشكلة علينا ادراكها وانا يجب علينا الرضا بالقضاء والتسليم لامره
فالمامول من جنابكم مراتب هذه التسلية منا تبلغوها نجلكم المكرم الشيخ جابر ايضا هنا مسئلة اخرى لما تلوناها هيجت لنا الاسف
الزيادة وهي هذه ان في مدة مسافرتنا قد حصل المداخل الى انتقاد في خراب ... المراودة الحسنة المتواترة التي لا زالت تتعاطا
فيما بين جنابكم وجناب القبطان ناكس صاحب ولكن انا حصل لنا الاستيناس لما بلغنا من اخبار الكواصل مع ... فكم
من بعد وصولنا ان ذلك الكتابة الخفيفة التي كان جدرونها الان ارتفعت وانا بكل وقت الذي نصل الى الكويت كما نرى ان الربط
الموجود فيما بين جنابكم وجناب القبطان ناكس صاحب غاية ما كانت مستحكمة اذ كنا نتصور اذا يقع شي من الحوادث فيما بينهم يحصل ... بيننا
وكما اننا نتيقن هو غير مخفي على جنابكم ان الاعمال التي لا زالت ثابتة غير متبدلة في انظار دولتنا ومامورينا هو ان تحترمون جنابكم
ومهما امكن يثبتونكم في العز والاحترام وعلو شانكم واننا ما بنا شك انه ما لجنابكم في هذا الخصوص انكم تتعاطون بمثل ذلك
ويكون ثابت في خاطركم ان المامور المعتمد من طرفنا في الكويت الذي هو شخص الكبير وحيد في جدودكم يحتاج ان تحترمونه ويكون ذوشان
ووقار في نظركم وانظار رعاياكم وللاحوال الاحوال تجري على هذا المنوال الان نرجع الى مواد المتعلق لمسافرتنا الى الهند
اننا اولا توجهنا الى سملا وتشرفنا بملاقات جناب جلالتماب الاجل الاكرم لورد منتو نايب السلطنة الجديد في الهند الذي جنابنا المعزى اليه
خاطبنا في خصوص امور الخليج تفقداته المستحسنة من جناب المعظم اليه المنوه بجنابكم وعلاقته نسبتا بامورنا وبجاحكم ...
من لطف جناب المحترم الاجل الاكرم الافخم لارد كرزن صاحب واما خصوص جناب المعظم لورد كرزن صاحب نحن نعتقد جنابكم كثير يحصل لكم الاسف
مما بلغكم ان في هذه الايام القلايل الماضية قد حلت بساحته داهية عظيمة وهي فوت قرينته المعظمة ليدي كرزن بعد ما اعتراها مرض جرى
فليحصل جنابكم تحبون ترسلون اليه التسلية بوسيلة كتاب او بارسال تار اننا مطمئنين جناب المشار اليه يستحسن ذلك فمن جنابكم ترسلون
ذلك فنحن نرسله الى محل المقصود ايضا في مراجعتنا من سملا توجهنا الى بمبى لملاحظة بعض اشيا التي في ضمن ذلك واجهنا الشيخ
علي بن احمد البحراني وتخاطبنا معه المشار اليه كثير يلح ان يخلي سبيله المراجعه الى البحرين فاذا جناب الشيخ عيسى على ... تعهدا
على المذكور من جهة سلوكه الحسنة اننا نحتمل ان المعظم بتصويب الدولة ان يتركونه يرجع الى البحرين قبلا طالت المدة بالخاطر اننا نظن
انه صحح عقله ورجع الى حسه ومجددا ... لاسباب الراحات فهذا ما عندنا نخبر من الاطلاعات فالمامول انكم تفيدونا اخباركم
على اي منوال واي الحال تكون الامور في نجد وكيف حالات روابطكم مع ابن سعود وعايلة ابن الرشيد وفي الخاتمة ناملا
ان مواجهة جنابكم مع صديقنا جناب الشيخ خزعل صار بطريق مستحسن وبكمال الاستيناس ... جنابكم اليه
هو في كمال الصحة والعافية ومقرون بالسعادة والاقبال ولنا امل قبل ما طالت المدة تصلنا كتبكم الكرام ونسمع اخباركم السارة
هذا وادام الله ايامكم محروس بالسلام حرر في ... جماد الثاني سنة ١٣٢٤ مطابق ... سنه ١٩٠٦





53 V / 7

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No. 3111 E/B.

NFIDENTIAL.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political ident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the rsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. -E/B., dated the 30th June 1906.

By order, etc.,

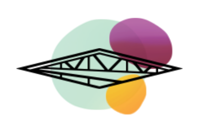
[signature]

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

EIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
25th July 1906.

Despatch from Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey, No.378 dated May 1906 and enclosure. (Received with letter from the Secretary, itical Department, India Office, London).

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 451 F. D.—16-1905.—6,000—B. N. D.





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ARABIA. [June 5.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 2.

[19105] No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 378.)

Constantinople, May 29, 1906.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 292 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, reporting the death of Abdul Aziz-bin-Reshid, Amir of Shanar, and the succession of his son Metaab, to whom His Majesty the Sultan sent a message confirming him in his father's place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 27.)

Bussorah, May 2, 1906.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 35 of the 25th April last, reporting the death of Abdul Aziz-bin-Reshid, Amir of Shanar, I have the honour to state that, according to information received here, it appears that a severe fight occurred at Rodath-Mukenna, some seven hours from Boreyda, on the 17th Sepher, 1324 (11th April, 1906), between Ibn Saoud and Ibn Reshid, who was returning from a raid in which the Amir was killed and his followers annihilated.

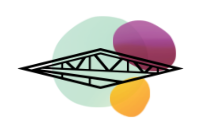
It is stated that nineteen men were killed and twenty-eight wounded on the side of Saoud, and 400 killed and 200 wounded on the side of the Amir.

The news was immediately communicated by the Sheikh of Koweit to the Government of Mohammerah and the Vilayet of Bussorah. On the 29th April the Sultan's Secretary sent a telegram to Bussorah, addressed to Metaab, son of Abdul Aziz-bin-Reshid, stating that His Imperial Majesty much regretted the murder of his father, and would punish the culprits, and that he (Metaab) was appointed by the Sultan to take his father's place, and that the salary and allowances granted to his father would be continued to him.

Metaab is said to be 18 years old.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. CROW.

[2021 *e*—2]



I.O.



53/7 V

(102)

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No. 3154 E/B.

fidential.

A copy of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No.2842-E/B., dated 14th July 1906.

By order, etc.,

[signature]

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,

Simla;

The 27th July 1906.

x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-xx-

Extracts from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the weeks ending, respectively, the 18th June 1906 and 25th June 1906.

Communication from Sir N. O'Conor to Sir E. Grey, No.371 dated 29th May 1906.(Received with letter from the Secretary Political Department India Office No.25 dated 22nd June 1906).





130 (103)

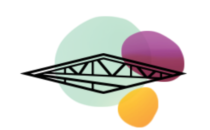
Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending 18th June 1906.

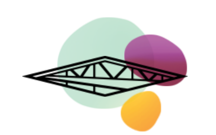
X X X X

15. The disturbances at Nedjef still continue. Sheikh Atiya, Zugurd, was said to have collected a number of men for the purpose of rescuing the Sheikhs who had fallen into the hands of the Turks. (see para:3).

I now hear that the arrested Sheikhs have been brought to Baghdad and that the members of the tribes at Nedjef are trying, by intimidation, to make the Mujtahids use their influence to get released the men who have been arrested. Communication between Karbala and Nedjef was stopped, but has since been reopened.

X X X X





131 (104)

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending 18th June 1906.

X X X X X X

18. Things appear to be again comparatively quiet on the lower reaches of the Tigris. I am still in correspondence with the Vali (see para 9).

X X X X X X





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Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 25th June 1906

(20) The Vali, the Nakib and Nizam-ud-Din, the Municipal Doctor of Baghdad, have left (25th June) for Amarah. It is said that they have gone to arrange some settlement with the Arab tribes who have lately been giving trouble there. (See para: 18).

(21) Affairs have temporarily become more quiet at Nejef. It is reported that, with the assistance of the Persian Consul General, who has lately been at Nejef, and other people of local influence, Sheikh Atiya Zugurd has been persuaded to come into Nejef and assist in keeping the peace. (See para: 16).





133 (106)

Enclosure in Foreign Office covering letter of the 11th June 1906.

No.371
(19098)

Pera,
29th May 1906.

Received on 9th July 1906 with Political Secretary' letter No.25 dated 22nd June 1906.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that I have received telegraphic information from His Majesty's Acting Consul General at Baghdad, as well as from His Majesty's Consul at Basra, of an unsuccessful attempt made by some hundred Arabs on the 12th instant, to board the steamer "Mejidieh" belonging to Messrs. Lynch and Company at a spot some thirty miles north of Kurna.

Major Ramsay further states that two Turkish steamers on the Tigris are reported to have been fired upon and three passengers killed. He has applied to the local authorities to protect British Steamers, and he has offered Mr. Consul Crow the services of the Royal Indian Marine Ship "Comet" and also those of Mr. Gaskin, should they be found necessary

I have, etc.,
Sd/- N. R. O'Conor.

Sir E. Grey, Bart., M.P.,
etc., etc.,





فارسي
خليج

ارتياد

من مبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت الى حضرة ذو الشوكة والاجلال المكرم ميجر كاكس باليوز وقنسل جنرال الدولة البهية الانكليزية

غب الاشتياق عن شريف ذاتكم الخاطر العاطر والمزاج الباهر والتحف الجديدة الجيد ادام دولتكم دائماً

وثانياً اني محسوبكم دائماً السؤال عن تشريف حضرتكم العالية لمبادرة الكتاب جل القصد سرورنا

بالحال واستفسار صحة حضرتكم العالية ومن زيادة وحمتنا وشفقتكم على المخلص سبقتونا بالتحرير

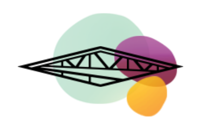
فلكم السبق الافضلية ادام الله تعالى شفقتكم هذا وشرفونا بما يلزم ودمتم ما يحبه آ لنسلمكم

١٢ جماد آخر سنة ١٣٢٤

From Shaikh Mubarak

Translation attached





135 (107)

D/12 Jemadi II 1324
3 August 1906

From,

Sheikh Mubarek el Subah
Chief of Koweit

To,

Major Cox,
H.B.M's Political Resident
and Consul-General.

A.C.,

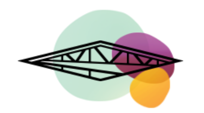
I beg to enquire after your health, and to say that I am keeping well.

I have always been asking about your arrival with a view to addressing you a letter and asking after your health.

You have (however) ~~expedited~~ anticipated me ~~by~~ writing to me owing to your extreme kindness and cordiality towards me.

May your cordiality endure for ever. —





Copy sent to Foreign
vide our 1942 of 19 8/06
in file 9/43

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دام اقباله

لراينقاته

من مبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت الى حضرة ذو الشوكة والاجلال المفخم ميجر كاكس باليوز وقونسل جنرال الدولة البهية الانكليز في خليج فارس

غب اهداء اوفى السلام الجزيل والسؤال عن شريف ذاتكم الخاطر المنير هو انه في اكمل الاوقات واحسن الساعات تشرفنا باوراقكم العالية

المورخ ٨ ج ١٣٢٤ تلوناه مسرورين في كمال صحتكم وما اوردتم جميعه صار معلومنا اولاً من خصوص جناب ذو الشهامة والاجلال

الاجل الافخم امير البحر فيا اي ها المحب اني للغاية كان محزون اني قد حظيت خدمة الجميع منهم معاقبة اني قد حظيت على الوعد

واتحفت بعد الوعد ثلاثة ايام مع انه اني حظيت في الحال منحرف المزاج لاني احتراماً لجميعهم واجابت وعند اقامتي

بالبلد زاد علي انحراف المزاج والعائلة جميعهم بالحمراء وقد رأى ذلك حضرة المفخم قبطان ناكس ومن خصوص ما تسألون

حضرتكم العالية الى ما تخالصكم ذلك من حسن شفقتكم والجاري عليكم يا محب هذا حال الدنيا اوردتم الخصوص محبنا

المفخم قبطان ناكس الذي هو عندي بمنزلة الاخ فنحنا دائماً انشاء الله نحترم ونفوز الوفاد لجليل باني وجهتي الاول

خدمة وطاعة منا الى الدولة البهية والوجه الاخر ايضاً لتستحصل الاطمئنان وانه واني ايضاً جاعل نفسي مأموراً منكم

لجانب الدولة البهية فابداً ان ترا من حضرة قبطان ناكس اشياء مخالفة ليس معتقدها بل ما اعرف حقيقتها اني افاوضه الحالة معي

بالامور وانبهه ومع هذا ولو اشتبه له وكتب علي عند حضرتكم العالية بعدها يعود لنظرنا بنسبتي له ان

اوردتم اني محافظكم دائماً الحق اتحاد للدولة بالرفق والمحمد ذلك ثابت عندي الجنس انسقاعتي وخلوص جانبها

العالي ومحبتي لطرفكم اوردتم عن اخبار النجد فقبل ان يشتغل عبد العزيز بن الرشيد رأى نفسه انه مخطي علينا وحسن ومع هذا في ذو نسابي انا تاركينه

فضائلي عليهم عند قبله وهو رأى النقص الكلي فجعل وسائل الى الصلح وبشر جميع من له محب ثم بعد

لان الاحوال الذي فيه كافيه واعطيناه الصلح الصافي وكان عنده اسر كلا حال الرشيد سلطان ولد حمود الرشيد وبلحمود ابنا الصدقة وترحمون

قتلو ارسلولنا مكاتيب وهما ابنه متعب وحمود العبيد فطلع انشاء الله قريباً انهم صلحهم وان

منا وقوع النظر عليهم واعطيناهم ذلك فبعد ذلك سحبنا بيتهم وبان ابن سعود اوردتم حضرتكم العالية من خصوص جناب المفخم الورد كورزن

سعود وابن رشيد محافظين على جلب رضانا لاننا نحب الصلاح للكل كثير عليهم بلاده من هذا الحبر لان كلما

صاحب الخصوص فقد قرب بينته المعظم لبيدي كورزن فانا محسوبكم ايضاً كثير علمي تلغراف لحضرتكم العالية وخلاف هذا

يلكد ها الشخص العالي بلدرني والجنب محسوبكم لحضرتكم العالية الجاسرة ان اقدم تلغراف اخنا نسلمها مع المحقق نبه واوكم لعالي

ناطرناً ودون بطاقة الاجلال ان الذي الحد اوكم يصل واجرة التلغراف اخنا اوقف في حجرة على احد الخليج

بومناهذا وهو يوم الجمعة موافق ١٢ تارة الحال اخذته من يد قبطان ناكس واتا مسير عليه في محل اوقف انه على حسن

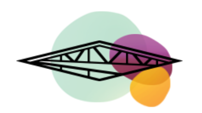
ومن جهة حضرتكم العالية لم في مبني ويستريح الرجوع وان اذا اخينا الشيخ عيسى ينتهي انه على حسن

السيرة يحيد ان ترا حيف الدولة برجوعه قبل المدة ما اذا اخينا الشيخ عيسى بعد ما صار حسن

عليه افواه الناس والحا على ابن اخيه علي ما نتنبه عن العقل يقيناً بعد ما بقا لا مبني وعلى

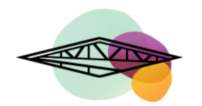
المذكور اذا بعد ما وقع والقدم وضيقته) فلكم اليد الطائلة على الجميع واما عفوكم البد دائماً

واني محبكم انشاء الله بعد التاريخ في يوم الاحد الرملي الفاء الطالع الحاصلات



7

ايضاً لابد انشاء الله نجتمع مع الاخ شيخ حسن علي خان اذا ماردنا للكيف تاصله في محل انشاء الله
يوم واحد هذا ونحن فوقنا بجاي لازم ودحة سالمة آنساليق ١٢ جماد آخر ١٢٤٦



Copy sent to Foreign vide our letter No. 1942 of 1906 in file 9/43 (110) 138

D/12 Jemadi II 1324
3 August 1906

From,

Sheikh Mubarek el Subah
Chief of Koweit.

To,

Major Cox, H.B.M's Political Resident and Consul General

A.C., In the most fortunate time I was honoured by (receiving) your ~~illustrious~~ honoured letter dated 8th Jemadi II 1324 (30 July 1906) and was glad to learn your well being, and I understood all what you had stated.

As regards what you had remarked about His Excellency the Admiral; my friend, I was exceedingly grateful to be present at the service of you all, and I came as promised and stayed for three days after the (lapse of the) time fixed. Although I was indisposed when I came from Jahrah, but I did so in order to pay (my) respects to you all and

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converse with you ~~to answer (your call)~~, During my stay in town, my indisposition increased; and all my family were at Jahrah. Captain Knox had noticed this.

As regards your sympathy with me; this is due to your cordiality towards me ~~(with me)~~ And as to what had befallen them (ie. his ~~the~~ deceased son) such are the ways of the world.

With regard to what you had said about my friend, Captain Knox, who is to me like a brother; if God please, I will always hold him in esteem and pay him high-reverence, for two reasons; firstly because of my duty and loyalty to the Government, and secondly for his personality and for our social intercourse ~~his association~~. I consider myself to be



140 (111)

an official like him on behalf of the Government. If I experience from him anything disagreeable owing to his not knowing the fact, I will discuss the matter with him and warn him. And notwithstanding this, if any misunderstanding had occurred for him and if he had written to you anything against me, it will, in my opinion, prove to him afterwards that I was in the right.

You had written that I am always under the good graces of the Govt. This is proved to me owing to my integrity and sincerity towards them and my cordiality with you.

You had asked about the news of Nejd. Before being murdered, Abdul



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Aziz Ibn Rashid had found himself ~~guilty~~ in fault ~~against me~~ with regard to me, ~~as~~ for my virtues (or excellent qualities) ~~were well known~~ had become apparent to him, and he also perceived that he had incurred great losses. So, he interceded for peace – although it was about 2 years that I had left him alone, because the (difficult) circumstances in which he was involved were sufficient for him. And I granted him true peace. – After he was murdered, letters were addressed to me by his son, Mitab, Hammood-el-Obeid el Rashid and Sultan son of Hammood el-Rashid praying for the maintenance of (my) friendship and asking me to have an eye to them. I granted this to them. Subsequently, I intervened between them and Ibn Saood for peace. If God please,

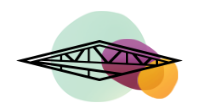


142 (112)

their reconciliation will be completed shortly.
Both Ibn Saood and Ibn Rashid try to attract
my ~~pleasure~~ goodwill because I wish the good of all.

You ~~had written about~~ made mention of His Excellency
Lord Curzon and about the death of his
honoured wife, Lady Curzon. God knows that
I have also been greatly shocked by this news;
because anything which vexes this illustrious
personage will also vex me. And as ~~required~~ becoming
by my dependence to you, I ~~take the liberty~~ venture
~~of sending you~~ to enclose a telegram in this letter.
I trust you will order it to be wired ~~becau~~ as
~~anything under your control~~ if sent through you it will reach its
destination safely; and I will pay the Telegraph
charges with thanks.

I received your ~~illustrious~~ honoured letter



143

by the hand of Captain Knox
today, Friday corresponding with the 12th inst –
I had gone to him in his place.

You had written about Ali bin Ahmed Khalifah that he had interviewed you in Bombay and solicited to come back and that if my brother Sheikh Isa, guarantees that Ali will behave properly, you can then make a refrence to the Government for his coming back before the time. If my brother Sheikh Isa do not recover from his negligence after what the people have said against him and after what had befallen to his nephew, Ali, then he must ~~will~~ certainly be considered to have left him no discretion ~~(in judgment) left for him~~. If after making such overtures, he is allowed to return ~~the afsaid Ali takes up his duties~~,



144 (113)

Your arm can reach him as
~~you will then have a hand extended~~ to all
well as others (where necessary) and
(~~that is to say, you~~ can exercise control
over all). Your pardon has is great.

If God please, I ~~will~~ am about to proceed to my property at
Fao to farm out the produces and ~~will also~~ hope also,
Inshaleah to ~~if God please~~, interview my brother Sheikh
Khazal Khan. If I did not want to
trouble him (by inviting him to come to me)
I shall go to him in his place for a day.
(Usual complimentary ending).





(١١٤)

145

تلغراف الحضرة المعظم اللورد كرزون



146

حضرة المعظم اللورد كرزون

قد دهمنا وفاة قرينتكم المصونة ففظعت علينا هذه المصيبة اح

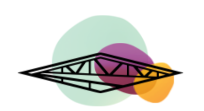
ثم العزا و الهمكم الصبر و السلوان ولم تكن التعزية منه و

ما صد عنا بتذكارها خاطر حضرتكم العالية لانني اظنها ذا لا الثا

وعملاً بالواجب صار تقديم التعزية لا اراكم بعد هذا مكر

١٢ ج ٢ ١٣٢٤

حاكم الكويت
مبارك الصباح





147

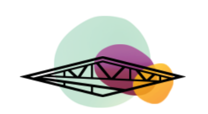
D/12 Jemadi II 1324
3 August 1906.

His Excellency
Lord Curzon.

I was much shocked by death of your august spouse. This is a great bereavement for me also, and I Beg to offer condolence and pray God ~~will~~ that you may be granted ~~grant you~~ resignation and solace ~~patience and ...~~.

Was it not requisite (for me) to offer condolence, I would have not troubled you by this. But in order to express regret and to act upon obligation, I expedited offering condolence and pray from God and that you may be preserved from further ~~will not experience any misfortune after this~~ affliction.

Chief of Koweit,
Mubarek Elsabah.





(178)

P. A.

This is the receipt (for Rs. 74.13) for Sheikh Mubarak's telegram to Lord Curzon.

I expect the amt. to be refunded to me?

[illegible]

1/9.

Yes - it will be refunded by Sh. Mubarak.

PZC

3/9/06



148

(178)

(Copy).

To,

His Excellency Lord Curzon.
1 Carlton House Terrace
London.

I was much shocked by death of your august spouse. This is a great bereavement for me also and I beg to offer condolence and pray God that you may be granted resignation and solace, and that you may be preserved from further affliction.

Sheikh Mobarak of Koweit
~~Chief of Koweit.~~
~~Mobarek-us-Subah.~~

P.Z.C.

By cheapest safe route
P.Z.C.





149

(18)

No. 33/3 E/B.

A copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 3154-E.B., dated the 27th July 1906.

By order, etc.,

V. Gabriel

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
10th August 1906

Letter from the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, No. 607 dated the 9th July 1906, with enclosures.

File PHC
25/8/06

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 151 F. D.—1-6-1905.—6,000—B. N. D.





156

(119)

No. 607 of 1906.

From

Major J. Ramsay C. I. E.,
Offg: Political Resident in Turkish Arabia
& Acting British Consul General
B A G H D A D.

To

Sir Louis W. Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department, Simla.

British Residency & Consulate General
Baghdad, 9th July 1906.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 523 dated the 9th July 1906, I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India a copy of my despatch No. $\frac{605}{58}$ dated 9th July 1906 to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, together with a copy of its enclosures.

2. I also enclose a copy of despatch No. 12 dated 6th March 1906 from His Majesty's Consul at Busrah to His Excellency the Ambassador.

I have, etc.,

Sd/- J. Ramsay, Major,
Offg: Political Resident in Turkish Arabia
& Acting British Consul General
B A G H D A D.



151 (120)

Copy of despatch No. 605/58 dated 9th July 1906 from H.B.M's Consul General, Baghdad, to H.B.M's Ambassador at Constantinople.

: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :.

Sir,

In continuation of my despatch No. 522/49 dated the 7th ~~July~~ June 1906 I have the honour to enclose for Your Excellency's ~~approval~~ information a copy of my letter No. 137 dated the 18th June 1906 to the Vali of Baghdad. To this letter I have received no reply.

2. It is not possible to get any official information as to what is being done with regard to the Arabs near Amarah, as far as I can piece together the information that reaches me from various sources the story is somewhat as follows:-

Mr. Crow's despatch No. 12 of the 6th March 1906 will have explained to Your Excellency that there is enmity between the tribes of the Albu Muhammad under Sheikh Seyhood and the Bani Lam tribe under Sheikh Gazban, that a crisis occurred in this long-standing feud owing to certain proposals to lease to one or the other a property on the Tigris below Amarah named Kumait, and that the officials proposals seemed to favour Gazban.

It appears that Gazban was not getting all that he expected, and he began to give trouble by firing first on Turkish steamers and then on the "Khalifah" (30th May 1906) a British steamer. After considerable correspondence with the Vali of Baghdad, who

is





152 (121)

is also in charge of Basrah he (Majid Bey) informed me on the 4th June 1906 that the attacks on the steamers had been caused by the puerile behaviour of some silly Arabs of the Amarah tribe. The next thing I heard ~~that~~ was that Sheikh ~~Max~~ Gazban had erected a mud fort on the Bank of the Tigris and I have satisfied myself that the report is correct.

3. Majid Bey went to Amarah to hold an enquiry and arrive at some settlement, he took with him the Nakib of Baghdad. The current belief is that the Vali wishes to give the disputed tract known as Kumait to a nominee of Gazban's, whose name I have not been able to learn , and that Gazban has obtained a decision in his favour by the fimilar process of bribing the Vali. It is said that he has paid £.T. 2,500 and there is some reason to think that the story is approximately correct. I knew that Gazban's agent came from Amarah to Baghdad in the"Khalifah"and it is said that he sent a telegram to Gazban at Amarah to the following effect "the garden "question is settled. A thousand Liras more are required which send by Ennis". Ennis is Gazban's secretary and he came to Baghdad, it is said ~~that~~ with Liras 1,000. It is reported that the Nakib is opposed to the Vali's proceedings as he considers them likely to lead to bloodshed.

4. Subsequent events also lend ~~to~~ colour to the story given above. On the 7th July I received information from the Agent of

the





153 (123)

the Euphrates & Tigris Steam Navigation Company that the Turkish steamer "Burhaniya" had been fired at below Amarah. I telegraphed to the Vali for information and I enclose a translation of his reply. The Vali does not say whether the steamer was hit or not. She is expected to arrive shortly in Baghdad, and if I find that she has been hit I will telegraph to Your Excellency.

5. Mr. Gaskin hears, on what he considers good authority, that the Bani Lam pay about £.T.8,000 in taxes, exclusive of the rent of Kumait, and that the Albu Muhammad pay annually £.T.46,000 as taxes and £.T. 75,000 to the Saniye administration. Mr. Gaskin has also heard that Sheikh Seyhood has written to the Sultan to say that he means to cause disturbances as this seems the best way of ensuring official favours.

I have, etc.,

Sd/- J. Ramsay, Major.

Copy of a letter No. 137 dated 18th June 1906 from H.B.M's Consul General at Baghdad, to His Excellency the Vali of Baghdad.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter No. 34 dated the 4th June 1906.

2. In this letter Your Excellency describes the recent

attack





154 (124)

attack on the British steamer Khalifah as the result of the puerile behaviour of some silly Arabs of the Amarah tribes. I think it is right that I should inform Your Excellency that I consider the incident as one of far too great importance to be adequately described in these words. If I have correctly understood Your Excellency's meaning it is that no one is deserving of punishment and that the matter may be considered as satisfactorily closed as soon as an amicable settlement has been arrived at for the settlement of the question that gave rise to the disturbance. I have no means of knowing officially what was the nature of the question which originally gave rise to the disturbance, but it seems to me to be fairly clear either, that the Arabs who fired on the "Khalifah" should be punished, or that the officials who allowed local disturbances to get to such an acute stage should be punished, or that both the Arabs and the officials should be punished.

3. It has perhaps escaped Your Excellency's notice that although a British steamer has been fired at, and struck by a number of bullets, as I have seen for myself, still no expression of regret has been conveyed to the representative of the British Government at Baghdad.

I shall be much obliged if Your Excellency will consider the desirability of letting me know whether it is proposed to mete out any punishment to any one in connection with this incident.

Sd/- J. Ramsay, Major.





155 (125)

Translation of telegram dated 8th July 1906 received from His Excellency the Vali of Baghdad, at Amarah.

The rumours that have spread there were also heard here. The Captain of the Burhaniya was sent for and upon the information received from him I have made careful investigations and found out that about 15 Arabs were performing "Hosa" on the bank of the river when the steamer happened to pass by and that the steamer has not been fired at on purpose of attack.

On examination and enquiry also Seyhood confirmed the same on oath in his answer.

Still necessary orders have been sent to the Basrah Vilayet as a precaution.

Sd/- Majid.

Vali of Baghdad & Acting Vali of Basrah.





156 (126)

Extract of a letter dated Basrah 6th March 1906, No.12, from H.B.M's Consul General at Basrah to H.B.M's Ambassador at Constantinople.

....

At the present time there is considerable friction between the Civil authorities represented by the Mutassarif, and the officials of the Saniyah department presided over by Hamid Pasha. The President of the Saniyah, who administers the Imperial domain lands, accuses the Mutassarif of neglecting the Sultan's interests and the Vali of Basrah has been despatched by Imperial command to patch up the quarrel and solve the differences which have arisen between ~~xxtx~~ the tribes of Al bu Muhammad and the Bani Lam in regard to the lease of the Imperial domain properties. When I reached Amarah I found the ~~Mutasxxrif~~ Mutassarif and the Hamid Pasha were not on speaking terms, and the latter had directed his staff to have no dealings with the Civil officials. Relations between the Vali and Hamid Pasha, who is powerfully protected and a man of progressive ideas, seemed also to be somewhat strained.

Half of the land at Amarah belongs to the Sultan and the other half belongs to the State and is called Mulkiye. These lands are farmed out to the tribes on the muqata'a

system





157 (127)

system at a fixed yearly rental for terms of two, three, or five years, the farmer subletting them to his tribesmen who cultivate them and provide the seed. The Al bu Muhammad whose Sheikh is Seyhood are more numerous apparently than the Beni Lam, who are under the rulership of Gadban, and are said to pay almost twice the rental of the latter for lands farmed to them. The two tribes are ~~are~~ constantly fighting with one another and their borders are contiguous in many places. They both farm lands on the east and west banks of the Tigris.

The matter which is at present occupying the attention of the authorities appear to be somewhat as follows. There is a certain district called Kumeyd belonging to the Saniye department situated on the west bank of the Tigris, which was formerly leased to one Hatab, a son-in-law of Seyhood Sheikh of the Al bu Muhammad tribe. Hatab married Fitna, daughter of Seyhood. He is a Sheikh of the Al bu Daraj who dwell at Kumeyd and acknowledge the Sheikh of the Al bu Muhammad as their overlord. About two years ago there was constant fighting between the Kumeyd people and the Bani Lam who farmed lands near them. Matters became serious, the general peace of the district was disturbed by the quarrel and troops were sent from Baghdad to quell the disorders. The Saniye department decided to deprive Hatab of his lease which had not expired and to relet the ground to one Belassim brother of Gadban of the Bani Lam. This was ~~between the Bani Lam~~ done on the ground of expediency and to obviate

further



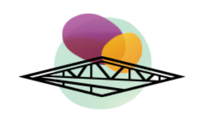


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(128)

further friction between the Bani Lam and Al bu Muhammed, as the Al bu Daraj, the dwellers on the soil of Kumeyd appear to follow either faction indifferently as one or the other gains the ascendency and becomes their overlord for the time being. The matter being thus temporarily arranged the troops were withdrawn whereupon Gadban apparently distrusting the Sheikh of Kumeyd seized Hatab and his four brothers and held them prisoners. Balassim's lease of Kumeyd has now expired and the land is to be put up for auction again. Hamid Pasha the President of the Saniye has represented to the Palace that he can make a better ~~bargin~~ bargain with the Al bu Muhammad than with the Bani Lam and can put some 4000 Liras into the Sultan's pocket by restoring the Kumeyd lands to Hatab. He seems to be somewhat influenced in this decision by Fitna, Hatab's wife and daughter of Seyhood, who although already married four times and the fifth wife of her present husband, is not devoid of personal attractions or without coquetry and, having set her cap at Hamid Pasha, is diligently running him in the interest of her imprisoned husband, a proceeding which bids fair to disturb the domestic tranquility of the President's own household and supplies food for the scandal mongers of Amarah. Fitna herself has twice applied to this Consulate for assistance but I considered it inadvisable to interfere and encourage her to submit her petition directly to the Vali himself. The Vali, after due consideration of the matter on the spot has, I am informed, ~~ak~~ come to the conclusion that to revert

to





159 (129)

to the former arrangement and to establish Hatab in such close proximity to the Bani Lam would be inexpedient and dangerous and lead to further fighting between the tribes. To prevent this it ~~was~~ would be necessary to dispossess Gadban of the land he holds near Kumeyd and to remove him to some place further afield and such a step could only be taken ~~ka~~ in the presence of a large body of troops. He has accordingly informed the Minister of the Saniye department at Constantinople of his conclusions and stated that if His ~~Maj~~ Majesty desires the extra 4000 Liras a year and the transfer of the land to the Al bu Muhammad the necessary troops must be sent and the arrangement which cannot be effected without bloodshed will be carried out. Otherwise the lands should remain in possession of the Bani Lam and the question will solve itself.

The Mutasarif is believed to be corrupt and has been won over to Gadban's interest, and the latter ~~is~~ is trying to make the power of his purse felt all round and in the meanwhile retains Hatab and his brothers hostages. The hereditary feud between the Al bu Muhammad and Bani Lam is quite inextinguishable and the only practical arrangement would be to place the river Tigris between the two factions and farm out lands to them on its east and west banks respectively thus creating a natural barrier which would act as a powerful deterrent by lessening the opportunities of tribal conflict.

Sd/- F. E. Crow.





160 (130)

53/7
39

Basra.
Aug. 22. 1906.

My dear Cox,
I should be much obliged if you would be good enough to let me have any information which reaches you regarding affairs in



161

Nejd and Central Arabia.
Sam instructed by the
Ambassador to follow
the movements of
the Saoud and Mutair
then Rashid as closely
as possible and should
be very grateful for
your assistance to



162

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enable me to do it.
The news we get here
is very meagre.

Yours sincerely.

[signature]

P.S. I have received this
mail from Captain Moore
extracts from his diaries
July 3 & Aug '22 regarding
the above. If you or
have



163

would be so kind as to let me have notes of this kind relating to Nejd affairs. They would be of great assistance.

[illegible initials]



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(132)

...d be so kind as to ...
... have notes of this
... relating to Seyd
...ans. They would
... great assistance
Sd.
K

Office Please note on this:
What would be the simplest
means of complying with
Mr. Crow's request.
I think if Captain Knox
sends extracts from his
Diaries, he should in-
-form us at the same



165

time. The Bussorah Consulate does not always see Nejd affairs with the same eye as we do, but of course we should endeavour to cooperate as far as we can.

I think Mr. Crow does send us copies of some of his news despatches to Legation about the Saood but not all.

28/8/06 P.Z.C.

P.A. We chiefly get Nejd news thro Koweit, so this request of Mr. Crow may be communicated to Capt. Knox & he be asked to furnish such information re Nejd, to Mr. Crow as may be of assistance to him?

A.?
29/8.

P.A.
Whatever is done should be mutual, should it not? We might ask Capt. Knox as above, and ask Mr. Crow to reciprocate.

[initials]
31/8/06.



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dential.

No. 3392 E.B.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 2564 Date 30.AUG.1906 PERSIAN GULF.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political esident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the ndorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 3111-.B., dated the 25th July 1906.

By order, etc.,

[signature]

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

REIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
17th August 1906.

Despatch from Sir N. O'Connor to Sir Edward Grey, No. 400, dated 11th June 1906. (Received with letter from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, No. 27, dated 6th July 1906.)

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 151 F. D.—1-6-1905.—6,000—B. N. D.





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(134)

(Received on 23rd July 1906 with Political Secretary's letter No. 27, dated 6th July 1906.)

ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[June 18.]

SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 400. Confidential.)

Sir, *Therapia, June 11, 1906.*

With reference to my despatches No. 292 of the 1st May and No. 309, Secret and Confidential, of the 8th May, relative to the defeat and death of Abdul Aziz Bin Rashid of Hail, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Jeddah, reporting the arrival of two messengers from Bin Saoud with letters for the Grand Shereef of Mecca and the Vali of the Hedjaz.

It would appear that after his successful encounter with the Emir of Nejd, Bin Saoud has proclaimed himself ruler of the whole "Shark" (East), and has sent letters to Constantinople and to the Valis of Bussorah and Bagdad.

As His Majesty's Acting Consul reports that the two messengers who had recently arrived at Jeddah had left for Yambo, and that the rumour is current that Bin Saoud has ordered them to proceed to Egypt with a letter addressed to the Khedive, I am forwarding a copy of the inclosure in this despatch to the Earl of Cromer.

What importance is to be attached to Bin Saoud's communication cannot be estimated at present, but so far as his character is actually known, neither his military prowess nor his administrative capacity encourages the belief that he will be able successfully to cope with the Ottoman Government, should he decide to proclaim his independence of the Sultan. The development of the question, however, deserves to be carefully watched.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

19





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(135)

Inclosure in No. 1.

Acting Consul Hussein to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 25.)

Sir, *Jeddah, May 13, 1906.*

I have the honour to report that on the 26th ultimo a telegram was received by His Excellency Ahmed Ratib Pasha from Medina that Abdul Aziz Bin Rashid, with 250 followers, was killed in a fight with Bin Saoud. The news gradually filtered through, and on the 28th ultimo I cabled the news to Your Excellency.

A few days later two messengers, bearing letters from Bin Saoud to His Highness the Grand Shereef and His Excellency the Vali, arrived here. I have not been able to see them personally, but the following appears to be the contents of the letters which is also corroborated by the news given out by these messengers to some respectable people of this town and Mecca.

Towards the end of April, Abdul Aziz Bin Rashid moved from his country in a marauding mood, and went to plunder a caravan, consisting of men of Bin Saoud's tribe, which was coming to Nejd from Bagdad with quantities of merchandize and supplies for the Turkish troops. He succeeded in waylaying the caravan and plundering it in a place not far from the camp of Bin Saoud.

It appears that Bin Rashid, being in the country of Bin Saoud, was unaware of his whereabouts at the time, and did not think that Bin Saoud might be so close to the place of his depredations. Bin Rashid had a small following with him which was sufficient to plunder a caravan, but in no way capable to give battle to Bin Saoud.

The Sheikh of the plundered caravan, who knew that Bin Saoud was close by, repaired at once to give him the news, and craved his help to recover the raided property, leaving behind him orders with his men to keep Bin Saoud fully informed of the movements of Bin Rashid.

On receiving the news Bin Saoud lost no time in marching swiftly to attack Bin Rashid with a strong body of men, and overtook him next night while Bin Rashid and his men, loaded with their booty, were encamped in a small valley in a false but perfect sense of security against any attack from an enemy.

A sudden charge of Bin Saoud created unmanageable confusion and panic in the sleeping camp of Bin Rashid, and most of his followers were in flight. But Bin Rashid, with whatever men stood by him, faced the attack, and in regular Arab style declared his presence and recited "rajaz" (verses of war).

Bin Rashid's presence having been found out, a concentrated deadly fire was poured at him, and everything was over in a few minutes.

Bin Rashid was found among the dead, and his head was cut off, and for six days paraded on a pole among the neighbouring tribes.

It is reported that Bin Rashid's own son and one cousin were also killed, but the news is not confirmed.

After this success Bin Saoud has declared himself the ruler of whole "Shark," and has sent letters to Constantinopole, to the Valis of Bussorah, Bagdad, Hedjaz, and His Highness the Grand Shereef.

The messengers were well received here both by the Vali and the Grand Shereef, and were rewarded with Khilats in the usual way.

The messengers have left for Yembo, and it is rumoured that they have orders to proceed to Egypt, and have a letter addressed to the Khedive.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) MOHAMMED HUSSEIN.

P. S.—It is hardly believed here that 250 men were killed with Bin Rashid, as the fighting did not last more than a few minutes.

M. H.

20

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 536 F. D.—14-8-06.—40—R. S. W.





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DENTIAL.

No. 3394 E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 3392 E.B., dated the 17th August 1906.

By order, etc.,

[signature]

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

EIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
17th August 1906.

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey No. 413 Secret and Confidential ted 18th June 1906. (Received with letter from the Secretary, Political partment, India Office, No. 29, dated 20th July 1906.)

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 451 F. D.—16-1905.—6,000.—B N. D.





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(137)

(Recd: on 6-8-06 With Pol: Secy's Letter, No. 29, dated 20-7-1906.)

ARABIA.

[June 25.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

[21388]

No. 1

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received June 25.*)

(No. 413. Secret and Confidential.)

Therapia, June 18, 1906.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 400 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that I learn through a secret and confidential source that an Imperial Iradé has been issued to the effect that the pay and allowances granted by the Imperial Government to the late Ibn Reschid are to continue to be paid regularly and in full to his son Mitaab-er-Reschid.

This decision is worth reporting, in so far as it shows that the Imperial Government intends to back Ibn Reschid's son as against his rival Ibn Saood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[2021 *bb*—1]



171

O/C

(138)

Bushire
31-8-06

My dear Crow

Your note of Aug. 22nd regarding news from Nejd & Central Arabia.

We get most of our news through Koweit and I have asked Knox to send you direct; copies of such of his Weekly Diary entries as containing interesting or important news from those parts

We occasionally get a bit of news from Bahrein & I have placed on record that it is to be communicated to you



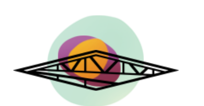
172

when received.

I hope you will recipro-
-cate, when opportunity
offers.

Yours sin[cerely]

P. Z. Cox



173

(139)

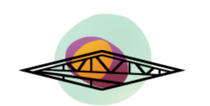
To P. A. Koweit

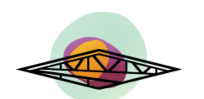
Sir

I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to forward copies of such of your weekly diary entries as include important or interesting items of news from Nejd & Central Arabia, to H B M's Consul Bussorah, who ~~have been asked to reciprocate in letting us have any~~ will be glad of the information for communication to H M's Embassy.

P. R. C.

31/8/06.





76 (140)

No. 2072, dated Bushire, the 4th (received 17th) September 1906.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—SIR LOUIS DANE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a translated extract from the Busrah Gazette of August 10th-23rd, 1906, regarding Sheikh Mobarak's subscription to the Hedjaz Railway and Mekka Canals fund.

Extract from the Busrah Gazette of August 10th-23rd, 1906.

In reply to communications addressed to His Excellency Mubarak-es-Subah Pasha, Kaimakam of Koweit, asking to contribute 200 liras towards the sums ordered to be collected for the Hedjaz Railway and the repairs of the water canals to Mekka, we learn that, instead of 200 liras, 500 liras have been sent. This amount has been received by the Treasury of the Vilayet.

We much appreciate the zeal and religious ardour displayed in this matter by Mubarak Pasha who is proud of his fidelity and obedience to the Imperial Throne and the country.

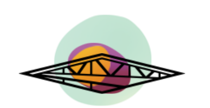
No. 11.

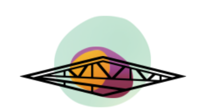
The foregoing is forwarded with the compliments of the undersigned to His Britannic Majesty's Resident and Consul General, Bushire, for his information.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
BUSRAH;
30th August 1906.

(Sd). F. E. CROW,
His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Busrah.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C284 F. D.—30-9-06—67—NC.





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(141)

o/c

No: 2073 of 1906.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 4th September 1906.

To,

The Political Agent,

KOWEIT.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for information copy of a translated extract from the Busreh Gazette of August 10th-23rd 1906 regarding Sheikh Mobarek's subscription to the Hedjaz Railway and Mekka Canals fund.

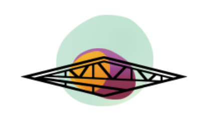
I have the honour to be

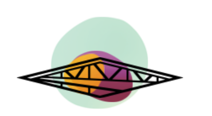
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

PZC Major,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





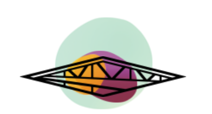
177 / شمس
٩٠٦
(142)

الى الشيخ مبارك الصباح

الموجب لتحرير الكتاب هو ابلاغ السلام والسئوال عن صحة حالكم على الدوام ونهار بارك
وقت غاياتنا استسرت خاطرنا من وصول كتابكم المكرم المورخ في ١٤ شهر جمادى الثاني ٢٤
مع ملفوفته وجميع المطالب المندرجة صار لدى محبكم معلوم وصرنا نشكر
جنابكم من جهة اظهار مراسم الخلوص الودادية الذي ابديتم في تلوه المنتج
منه حسيات الودادية نسبتها الى دولة متبوعيتنا واصحاب
مناصبها فكما جنابكم اشرتم اننا ارسلنا صورت تلغراف المرسول
منكم الى حضرة ذي الشوكة دولة جلالة اللورد كرزن صاحب ورسل اليكم رصيد
ومن ملاحظته يتضح لجنابكم قد بلغ مصرفه اربعة وسبعين روبية ٧٤/١٤
و١٤ عشر آنه فاذا جنابكم تتفضلون بتسليم ذلك لجناب العالي جاه
القبطان ناكس صاحب جناب المشار اليه يدخله علينا في الحساب
حسب المطلوب انشاء الله بدوا لجنابكم جواب مخصوص من طريق الصفاو احيانا
اذا ما حصل ذلك الحال اننا نرسل لجنابكم طيه ترجمة تلغراف العمومي
المرسول من جناب المعظم اللارد كرزن مسترا اظهار تشكراته لجميع اشخاص
الذي ارسلوا اليه التعزية في مصيبته . ايضا شرحات المندرجة
من خصوص امور نجد فهمناه ونحن مسرورين الخبر ان توسيلة مساعيكم
الجميلة صار الصلاح او يصير ذلك بين ابن سعود وابن الرشيد
ونامل حالة تلك الاطراف تكون مستقلة في كل من والزمان
ومن تفضيع سفك الدماء هذا ما لزم بيانه لجنابكم ولا زلتم محروسين والسلام
حرر في ١٤ شهر رجب ١٣٢٤ مطابق في ٤ شهر سبتمبر ١٩٠٦

PZC

Office copy
Letter to Sh. M.





143

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Copy of a letter No 255 dated 4th September 1906, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to Sheikh Mobarek-ul-Sabah, Chief of Koweit.

I was much gratified to receive your honoured letter and enclosure of 12th Jamadi-Sani 1324. I understand all its contents and thank you for the cordial sentiments which you have expressed therein and which are outcome of your friendly feelings to my Government and its Officers.

I forwarded your telegram as requested to His Excellency Lord Curzon and send you the receipt thereof herewith from which you will see that the cost was R74/13/-. If you will kindly give that amount to Captain Knox sometime he will credit me with it.

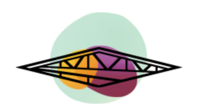
Perhaps you have received a special answer, via Fao. In case you have not I attach the translation of a public telegram issued by Lord Curzon in which he expresses his gratitude to all those who condoled with him in his bereavement.

I understood what you told me about the affairs of Nejd and am very glad to hear that a reconciliation has been completed or is about to be completed between Bin Saood and bin Rashid-thanks to your good offices. Inshallah quiet will now remain in the country and there will be a cessation of bloodshed.

May you be preserved and salaam.

PZC





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(144)

Since the death of Lady Curzon, Lord Curzon has received an immense number of telegrams from all parts expressing sympathy with him in his great bereavement. These have come from Indian Chiefs and Princes, public bodies, Communities and Associations, and Private Individuals, both European and Native.

Lord Curzon, who is unable to reply individually to all these messages, asks leave to convey his heartfelt gratitude for the feeling that has been displayed, in such an affecting manner, towards his late wife.





180

(145)

No: 2076 of 1906.

Confidential.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 4 September 1906.

Copies of the communications detailed below forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent Koweit for information.

By Order,

4/9/06 Lieutenant,

Special Assistant to the Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

Resident to Foreign No: 1814 dated 8th August 1906.

Sheikh Mobarek to Resident dated 12th Jemadi II 1324. file 53/7 V

Resident to Sheikh Mobarek dated 4th September 1906. file 53/7 V

D.O. letter dated 11/9/06 written to correct this entry to 1942 of 19/8/06 file 9/43.





...DENTIAL. 53/7 V

No. 3513 E.B.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 2628 Date 6-9-1906 PERSIAN GULF. 181 (146)

A copy of each of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 3313 E.B., dated 10th August 1906.

By order, etc.,

V. Gauiel

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
Simla;
The 25th August 1906.

Letter from the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia No. 624, dated 16th July 1906, with enclosure.

Question and answer in Parliament dated 2nd July 1906.

Communication from Sir E. Grey to Sir N.O'Conor No. 106, dated 10th July 1906.

Communication from Sir N. O'Conor to Sir E. Grey No. 141, dated 11th July 1906.

Communication from Sir N.O'Conor to Sir E. Grey No. 142 dated 12th July 1906.

Communication from Sir N.O'Conor to Sir E. Grey No. 143 dated 13th July 1906.

(Received with letter from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, No. 30 dated 27th July 1906.)

No. 3573 E.B.

A copy of each of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 3312 E.B., dated 10th August 1906.

By order, etc.,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
Simla;
The 25th August 1906.

Letter from the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia No. 624, dated 16th July 1906, with enclosure.

Question and answer in Parliament dated 2nd July 1906.

Communication from Sir E. Grey to Sir N. O'Conor No. 106, dated 10th July 1906.

Communication from Sir N. O'Conor to Sir E. Grey No. 141, dated 11th July 1906.

Communication from Sir N. O'Conor to Sir E. Grey No. 142 dated 12th July 1906.

Communication from Sir N. O'Conor to Sir E. Grey No. 143 dated 13th July 1906.

(Received with letter from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office No. 30 dated 27th July 1906.)



(Copy)

182

No. 624 of 1906.

(147)

From

Major J. Ramsay, C. I. E.,
Offg: Political Resident in Turkish Arabia
and Acting British Consul General,
Baghdad,

To

Sir Louis W. Dane, K. C. I. E., C. S. I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department, Simla.

British Residency & Consulate General,
Baghdad, 16th July 1906.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 607 dated the 9th instant, regarding the disturbances on the lower Tigris, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a statement made to me by the Commander of Messrs Lynch & Co's steamer "Medjidieh".

2. I telegraphed the purport of the above statement to H.B.M's Ambassador at Constantinople and His Excellency has informed me that the Grand Vizier has sent most stringent orders to the Commandant at Baghdad and to the officials of the districts adjoining the river to take all necessary measures for the safety of vessels plying on the river.

3.





183

(148)

3. Messrs Lynch & Co's steamer "Khalifah" must have reached Amarah last night and as up to the moment of writing I have not heard of her having been interfered with, it may be hoped that the Grand Vizier's orders are having the desired effect.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) J. Ramsay, Major

Offg: Political Resident in Turkish Arabia &

Acting British Consul General, Baghdad.



153

3. Messrs Lynch & Co's steamer "Khalifah" must have reached Amarah last night and as up to the moment of writing I have not heard of her having been interfered with, it may be hoped that the Grand Vizier's orders are having the desired effect.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) J. Ramsay, Major

Offg: Political Resident in Turkish Arabia &

Acting British Consul General, Baghdad.



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(149)

Statement of Captain Rawlins, of the S.S. "Medjidieh", before H.B.M's Consul General at Baghdad on the 12th July 1906.

We left Baghdad on the third of July 1906. It seemed to me that the Arabs are in an unusually excited state between Koot and Qurna. I say this because when the steamer passes it is usual for boys to run alongside and ask for things to be thrown to them: on this voyage men run alongside, threw things at us, and generally showed an excited and unfriendly feeling. When we got below Ezra's Tomb I saw a crowd of about a hundred men, mostly armed, they said nothing to us: but I heard one man say "shoot at him". No shots were however fired.

We started back from ~~Amarah~~ Busrah on the 7th July, and at about noon on Sunday, the 8th July we reached a place about 15 miles below Amarah. Here there was a crowd of about 300 or 400 Arabs, mostly armed. They shouted out to us that they would let us pass this time as they had sent an Ultimatum to the Turks, allowing a period of ten days, of which only eight had elapsed. They said that on our return journey they would make

widows





185

(150)

widows of all our wives. They were also abusive. At that time we had no flag flying.

When we got to Amarah we heard that the "Burhaniyah" had been fired at near the place where we had seen the Arabs. The story we heard was that 13 shots had been fired and that the shots had been returned from the "Burhaniyah", with the result that one or two Arabs had been hit. The "Burhaniyah" was about two days ahead of us.

Both on the up and down journey the only place where I saw any troops other then those which are always on the river bank, was at Ezra's Tomb. I saw about 20 or 30 soldiers there.

(Sd) F. W. Rawlins.





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(151)

2nd July 1906.

Mr. Lonsdale: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received information of the murder of several British subjects recently in the vilayets of Baghdad and Basr; and what steps are being taken to restore order in that area, and protect the lives and property of British subjects.

Sir E. Grey: His Majesty's Government have received information of the murder of one British subject, Mr. Glanville, at Maghil, and His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople is giving every attention to the matter. A special Commission is being despatched by the Ottoman Government to concert such measures as are required for the maintenance of order.





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(152)

Recd: on 13-8-06 With Pol: Secy's
Letter No. 30 dated 27-7-1906.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir N. O'Conor (Constantinople).

Foreign Office, July 10th 1906, 4.30 p.m.

Euphrates and Tigris Company's agent at Bussorah reports 9th July renewed disturbances at Amarah, wire destroyed, and local authorities helpless. Fears entertained for safety of mail-steamer "Mejidieh," due Bussorah from Bagdad 7th July, with six British subjects on board. Please communicate with Consuls at Bagdad and Bussorah, and urge Porte to take immediate protective measures. Company suggest placing guard of Indian troops on their mail-steamers. This does not seem to us likely to be effective, but we think it desirable to give any protection we can. Would it be feasible at this season to send a gun-boat to patrol the route once or twice ? Its presence, even though it could not regularly escort Lynch's steamers, might deter Arabs from firing on the British flag.





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(153)

Recd: on 13-8-06 With Pol: Secy's Letter, No. 30 dated 27-7-1906.

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.- (received July 11, 7.20 p.m.)

(No. 141) Therapia, July 11, 1906, 4.5 p.m.

Your telegram No. 106.

His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah reports that steamship "Mejidie" has safely passed Amara. I am insistent in my representations to the Porte for the protection of river traffic. I hope arrival of new Vali at Bussorah will improve situation, and that there may be no necessity to have recourse to patrol by British gun-boat, for, even if feasible, I think it would be attended with great risk of serious complications ultimately in the event of her being attacked by Arabs, now apparently concentrated in considerable force along river. Placing of Indian troops, drawn from our Sepoy guard at Baghdad, would not be effective while it would be open to the same objections as the gun-boat patrol, and relieve Turkish authorities of their responsibilities.





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(154)

Recd: on 13-8-06 With Pol: Secy's Letter, No. 30 dated 27-7-1906.

[...]TIAL.

Sir N.O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.- (Received July 13, 8 A.M.)

(No. 142.) Therapia, July 12, 1906, 11.40 p.m.

Your telegram No. 106 and my telegram No. 141.

His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah reports only about 6 feet of water in places above Kurna on Tigris. River falling, and gun-boat impracticable. "Comet" could escort Lynch steamers, but I have already explained objections to this. Fourteen battalions reported to have been sent to disturbed district, but, so far, river traffic in statu quo.





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Enclosures received from Foreign Office 14th July 1906.

(155)

[...]er. Sir N. O'Conor. Therapia dated 4.0 p.m. Recd: 4.55 p.m. July 13th 1906.

Recd: on 13-8-06 With Pol: Secy's Letter, No. 30 dated 27-7-1906.

No. 143.

My telegram No. 142.

Following sent to Baghdad.

Your telegram of yesterday. Grand Vizier assures me he has sent the most stringent instructions to Commandant of Baghdad and to all subgovernors of the districts adjoining the river to take all necessary measures for securing safety of navigation for which they will be held personally responsible.

Sent to Basra.





Confidential.

Not complied

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 2629 Date 6.9 1906 PERSIAN GULF.

No. 3529 -E/B. 191

(156)

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 3394-E/B, dated 17th August 1906.

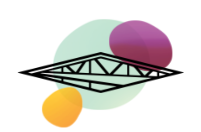
By order, etc.,

V. Gariel

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,
Simla;
The 25th August 1906.

Sir N.O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey, No.449, dated 3rd July 1906 (received with letter from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, No. 30, dated 27th July 1906.)





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(157)

ARABIA.

[July 9.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 2.

[23214]

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 449.)

Constantinople, July 3, 1906.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 400, Confidential, of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Jeddah, respecting the state of affairs in the Nejd and Bin Saood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Acting Consul Mohammed Hussein to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 34.)

Jeddah, June 19, 1906.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that news has come here that Bin Saood has lately given orders to all the Arab Sheikhs and tribes in Nejd to desist from keeping communication with the Turkish officials and troops, and to stop carrying their mails and supplies, under a threat of severe punishment if his orders were not complied with.

The Sheikhs of tribes who were till now helping the Turks in Nejd have informed the military officers who are with the Turkish troops there that they will have nothing to do with them in future, and that they will not carry their mails and supplies.

This information was sent by the officer in command of the Turkish troops in Nejd to Medina, and was telegraphed to Constantinople, wherefrom order has been given to the Military Mutessarif, who is still in Medina, to march with 600 troops and two guns to the help of the Turkish troops now in Nejd, and take the necessary steps to keep the lines of communication open.

It is also reported that the son of Bin Rashid has also gone out to attack Bin Saood, and has asked the Turkish troops to co-operate with him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MOHAMMED HUSSEIN.

[2062 *i*—2]





Confidential 193 (158)

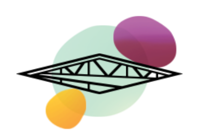
British Consulate
Mohammerah
Septr 9 1906

53/7 V

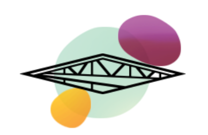
Dear Cox,

30

Here is a rather extraordinary story about Koweit. About one month ago some Koweit merchants visited the Sardar Aqfa, and went on to Basreh, the head man's name was I



understood Haji Bekkri. They
have now returned from Basrah
and I am told at a private
meeting with the Sheikh at
which only one or two of the
greybeards were present said
that the Turkish government
have granted Subia to
Sheikh Mubarek. Sheikh
Mubarek is shortly coming
to Mohammerah, and



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on his return the whole of Koweit, merchants, shopkeepers etc. and to move to Subia and desert Koweit entirely. Those present were told not to mention what they had heard, but my informant is in the confidence of one of them and brought the story to me.

It sounds so strange that I wonder if it was a trap

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Basrah
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to see if the story leaked out
& test the trustworthyness of
those present. If it is true
the information may be of
value. The Sardar saw three
merchants on board his Steamer
this morning I know.

Yours sincerely

W McDouall



DRAFT— (For Approval).

POLITICAL RESIDENCY, PERSIAN GULF.

No.

Dated Bushire, the 190 .

To

S 1917—5,0 0-3-06





(150)

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CONFIDENTIAL

18/9/06

My dear Knox

The following from McDouall , dated 9th inst , begins : " Here is rather an extraordinary a-
-bout Koweit . About one month ago some Koweit merchant visited the Sardar Arfa' , and went on to Bussorah , th the headmen 's name as I understood being Haji Bekkir. They have now returned from Bussorah and I am told , at a private meeting with the Shaikh at which only one or two of the grey-beards were present , said that the Turkish Government have granted Subia to Shaikh Mubarak Shaikh Mubarak is shortly coming to Mahommerah and on his return the whole of Koweit merchants , shopkeepers etc , are to move to Subia and desert Koweit entirely. Those present were told not to mention what they had heard but my informant is in the confidence of one of them and brought the story to me. It sounds so strange that I wonder if it ws a trap , to see if the story leaked out and test the trustworthiness of those presen If it is true the information may be of value .The Sard ar saw the merchants on board his steamer this morning I know ". ends.

Can you make anything of it ? If it were anything it would be Subakiyeh not Subia? Yours sincerely

P. Z. Cox





Confidential

(161)
196

BUSHIRE.

11 September 1906.

Dear Captain Knox,

Please see this office endorsement No: 2076 dated 4th September 1906. I notice from the office copy of this letter that the first entry in the list of communications forwarded with it is No: 1814 of 8th August 1906. This letter refers to Messrs Lynch importing empty cartridge cases into Koweit. The letter that should have been forwarded to you is number 1942 of 19th August 1906 regarding Sheikh Mobarek and the Arms Traffic generally. Would you please let me know if this latter communication has been forwarded to you or not and if it has been, would you kindly have the entry in the endorsement corrected accordingly.

Yours sincerely

J Birdwood

[Capt]ain S.G. Knox, I.A.,
[Po]litical Agent,
KOWEIT.





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(Confidential)

No. 2138, dated Bushire, the 15th (received 24th) September 1906.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—SIR LOUIS DANE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a despatch* addressed by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Basrah to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

* No. 62, dated 31st August 1906.

With reference to Mr. Crow's statement as to the channels through which Ibn Saood and Meta'ab bin Rashid respectively receive their allowances, I am addressing the Political Resident at Baghdad and the Political Agent at Koweit on the subject and will forward in due course any further information I may receive from them.

No. 62, dated the 31st August 1906.

From—His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah,

To—His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

With reference to my despatch No. 59 of August 25th, I have the honour to report that I called on Lieutenant-General Sudqi Pasha last Wednesday. He had been ordered to Baghdad and left the same evening. It is uncertain whether he will return to take up his appointment as Commandant at Basrah. Sudqi Pasha stated that he had handed over the Command in El Kasim to Sami Pasha, Acting Mutessarif and Commandant and stayed ten days with him after his arrival. Sami Pasha brought 500 soldiers and one gun with him from Medina. The troops arrived in excellent condition.

According to Sudqi Pasha's account there are 2,500 troops in Nejd and El Kasim. The lines of communications are open and caravans arrive freely and, though supplies are not easily obtainable locally, all necessaries were forwarded to them by caravans.

Information from other sources does not confirm this favourable account. The tale told by the numerous deserters who have from time to time found their way to Koweit and thence the Basrah during Sudqi Pasha's command in Kasim is a very different one. They describe the state of the troops there as pitiable in the extreme and state that provisions are scarce and they are without pay. Sudqi Pasha himself is said to be owed 2,000 Turkish £ for his services.

Sudqi Pasha said that Ibn Saood was jealous of Saleh bin Mohanna's intercourse with the Turkish Officers and that he got the people of Boreyda to sign a *masbata* complaining of his oppression and then removed him to Riadh. He attributes his removal to personal animosity. Though Mohanna was appointed Kaimakam of Boreyda by the Mushir, the appointment had not been confirmed by Constantinople.

Sudqi Pasha marched from Boreyda to Zilfi and thence travelled by way of Es Safa and Subakeya to Koweit, crossing the northern end of the Dahna between Koweit and Kasim. From Zilfi onwards he found water once every four days. The journey was performed on camels. He brought 142 men with him and had no casualties. He seems to have travelled very quickly. He told me that peace had been established between Ibn Saood and Ibn Rashid but did not think it would last very long. He described Ibn Saood as a desert diplomatist and the late Abdul Aziz Bin Rashid as a desert warrior and said the former displayed considerable ability and adroitness in his dealings while the latter was a fighting man pure and simple. Meta'ab his son is only 21 and Sudqi Pasha thinks his youth will prevent him from taking any active line for the present, but his ambition to make a name for himself and follow in his father's footsteps may lead to a recurrence of hostilities between the rival factions at no distant date. He stated the Arabs had now all retired to their homes and their pastures.



2

The murder of Abdul Aziz bin Jilwa, while on his way to Koweit with letters from Ibn Saood, was, I am informed, perpetrated by a raiding party of Shama Arabs who had not heard the news of peace being proclaimed.

I learn that the allowance granted by the Turkish Government to Ibn Saood is by recent arrangement paid through the Sheikh of Koweit, who deducts it from the land tax due to the Government on his Fao property. Meta'ab's allowance is supposed to be paid through Baghdad, but I have not heard of his receiving anything as yet.

I can obtain no confirmation of the report from Jeddah, mentioned in Your Excellency's despatch of 7th July, that Ibn Saood had ordered the Arab Sheikhs and tribes in Nejd to abstain from communication with Turkish officers and troops and to stop carrying their mails and supplies. Sudqi Pasha seems to have been on very friendly terms with Ibn Saood who visited him several times during his recent visit to Boreyda and brought his retainers and many Arab Sheikhs with him. The troops have no doubt suffered from want of money and though there was little or no fighting they must necessarily have endured great hardships.

(Sd.) F. E. CROW.

No. 12.

Copy forwarded to His Majesty's Resident and Consul-General, with the compliments of the undersigned.

BASRA ;
6th September 1906.

(Sd.) F. E. CROW,
His Britannic Majesty's Consul.

G. C Press, Simla.—No. C-294 F.D.—10-10-06.—67—BBC.



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o/c

Confidential.

No: 2139 of 1906.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 15th September 1906.

From

Major P. Z. Cox, C. I. E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To

The Political Resident
in Turkish Arabia,
BAGHDAD.

Recd under Bombay end: 12 of 6.9.06

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith for your

No: 62 dated 31st August 1906. | information copy of a despatch addressed by H.B.M's Consul at Busreh to H.B.M's Ambassador at Constantinople.

2. With reference to Mr. Crow's statement as to the channels through which Ibn Saood and Meta'ab "bin Rashid" respectively receive their allowances, I would request the favour of being furnished with such further information as you may be able to obtain both on this point and as to the nature and amount of the payments made.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

PZC
Major,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





S 1935—2,000-3-06

Confidential.

No. 2140 of 1906.

(164)

199

BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE-GENERAL:

Bushire, 15th September 1906.

To

THE POLITICAL AGENT,
KOWEIT.

Recd under Cover No: 12 d 6 9/06

Sir,

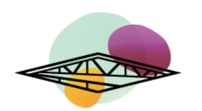
I have the honour to forward herewith for your information copy of a despatch addressed by H.B. M's Consul at Busreh No: 62 dated 31st August 1906. to H.B.M's Ambassador at Constantinople.

2. With reference to Mr. Crow's report as to the channels through which Ibn Saood and Meta'ab "bin Rashid" respectively receive their allowances, I would request the favour of being furnished with such further information as you may be able to obtain both on this point and as to the nature and amount of the payments made.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

P. Z. Cox Major,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





200

(165)

No. 2181, dated Bushire, the 16th (received 24th) September 1905.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—SIR LOUIS W. DANE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have the honour to forward, for the consideration of Government, a copy of the communication marginally quoted which I have received from the Political Agent at Koweit, on the subject of the aspirations of Bin Saood to enter into closer relations with the British Government.

Political Agent, Koweit, to Resident, No. 313, dated the 28th August 1905.

2. In the same connection, I have the honour to refer to paragraph 2 of my letter No. 64 of 23rd February last to your address.

Subsequently when touring on the Arab Coast in May last I had an opportunity of meeting Sheikh Jasim bin Thani at his summer quarters at Lusail, and on that occasion he expressed himself to much the same effect on behalf of Bin Saood, saying that the latter was now strong enough to drive the Turks out of Nejd and Al Hassa and asking whether in the event of his coming down to the coast, the British Government could not see their way to give him the same measure of protection by sea as they gave to Sheikh Mubarak and other Arab Chiefs on the Coast, in pursuance of their traditional policy of preserving the maritime peace of the Gulf. He added that it would be a simple matter for Bin Saood to meet a British officer at the coast, if that course were considered desirable.

In reply, I told Sheikh Jasim that this was a question to which I could not give him any definite answer offhand and without instructions from the Government of India.

Just at that time the news of the death of Bin Rashid at the hands of his rival reached the coast and the situation seemed so kaleidoscopic that I delayed making any report to Government until matters had crystallised somewhat.

I have now received from Captain Knox a communication from Sheikh Mubarak to much the same effect as the foregoing. We have thus been approached from three directions and I think there can be no doubt that these representations may be held to have been inspired by Bin Saood personally.

3. Bin Rashid's death at the hands of his rival had an important influence on the situation, and as the Government of India have been informed, the three cornered peace of which the possibility was indicated in paragraph 2 of my letter No. 620 of 18th March has lately taken shape.

Whether it will endure on its own merits or whether the Turks will at once set themselves to undo it, it is impossible to prophesy, but seeing that the present Bin Rashid is a mere youth of 18, it is hardly likely that he will be able to make any serious stand against Bin Saood for some time to come. The juncture is consequently a convenient one for an examination and review of the political situation in Central Arabia and of our attitude towards Bin Saood and I venture to hope that Government will take advantage of it for that purpose.

4. While I believe I am right in thinking that His Majesty's Government regard with no favour the idea of the Turks establishing themselves in Nejd,* I am at the same time aware that it has been a recognised principle of their policy not to allow themselves to become involved in the tempestuous politics of Central Arabia. Nevertheless it must be conceded that we have principles and interests to consider other than the pursuit of the purely negative doctrine of aloofness above mentioned, and I cannot see that these are in any way served by our carrying that doctrine to an extreme point and by our treating the predominant Arab element in Nejd with an active neglect which not only places us in an

* (1) Foreign Department telegram No. 1748-E. A., dated 19th May 1904.
(2) Foreign Department letter No. 3397-E.B., dated 6th October 1904.



unnecessarily unfavourable position for safeguarding the other interests referred to but which, persevered in, may be mistaken for hostility on our part and may engender a reciprocation of that sentiment on the part of the Wahabi Chief.

5. Thus it will be remembered that Bin Saood formally appealed to us for protection in a letter to me, dated 2nd May 1904, but no reply on behalf of Government to that communication was ever authorised, and at the present time no practical *modus vivendi* between the Arab and ourselves can be said to exist.

Vide telegram Resident to Foreign Department, dated 16th May 1904.

The inconvenience of this became apparent in connection with the intention attributed to Bin Saood of visiting Oman, which has created so much apprehension in the minds of the Pirate Coast Chiefs during the past year. Had they known that any sort of friendly understanding existed between the Residency or Government and Bin Saood, both the Sultan of Muscat and the Trucial Chiefs would have been fortified with the consequent knowledge that any attempt on the part of the Wahabi to make a descent upon Oman would involve a preliminary rupture with us. In the absence of any such entente all we could do was to get Sheikh Mubarak to give him a hint that any such action on his part would be regarded with disfavour by us. It is true that it appeared afterwards that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had expressed the opinion that we should deal with Bin Saood direct, but meanwhile it had become necessary to take action locally in the most expeditious way open to us. As a matter of fact this course met with a very courteous response from Bin Saood as reported to Government at the time.

Vide correspondence received with Foreign Department endorsement No. 2020-E.B., dated 17th May 1906.

Resident to Foreign Department No. 773, dated 5th April 1906.

6. Another matter in regard to which we lose by not being on any sort of terms with the Wahabi is the question of piracy in the northern part of the Gulf. There is good reason to suppose that, had we friendly relations with him, Bin Saood would be able to give us considerable assistance in running down notorieties like the outlaw Ahmed bin Salman, who yearly commits more or less serious depredations during the pearling season.

7. At the present epoch, as before mentioned, peace reigns in the land, and if we have any intention of establishing some measure of friendly intercourse with the Ruler of Nejd, the present seems to be the time for us to do so. If on the other hand we persevere in our policy of ignoring him altogether and leaving his appeals unanswered and if we allow the Turks to revive the strife in Central Arabia, which theoretically they have now no excuse for doing, it will be small matter for wonder if we make him our bitter enemy for the future.

I hesitate to make premature suggestions as to the terms which might figure in any agreement made, as I am aware that the problem is a delicate one and requires examination by a lens of longer focus than I can command, but I think I may say without temerity that I should welcome any degree of friendly understanding which would facilitate my dealings with the Trucial Chiefs and which would render it possible and unobjectionable for our officers to make occasional tours in the country and thereby to acquire accurate information regarding the topography, tribes, and tribal politics of the interior, in respect of which our present store of knowledge is very meagre.

In these latter connections, I solicit reference to the following items of previous correspondence:—

(i) The latter part of letter No. 69, dated 26th March 1904, from the Government of India to the Secretary of State.

(ii) Despatch from Sir Nicolas O'Conor to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, No. 189, dated 20th March 1906, in which His Excellency advocated the arrangement of a meeting between Bin Saood and a British representative on one of our Government ships at some convenient point on the Coast. If this could



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take place, we should at all events know first hand what were the Arab's ambitions and what undertakings he was prepared to give in regard to matters which concerned us.

In any case, I trust that I may be placed in a position to give an authoritative reply to the enquiries of Sheikh Jasim and Sheikh Mubarak, for the information of their ally.

No. 313, dated Koweit, the 28th August 1906.

From—CAPTAIN S. G. KNOX, I.A., Political Agent,

To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have the honour to inform you that, at an interview that I had to-day with Sheikh Mubarak, he referred to the letters that Abdur Rahman bin Feysul bin Saood wrote in the year before last to your address and to the letter that reached me shortly after my arrival at Koweit, and seemed anxious again to persuade me that it would be to the advantage of the English to take Bin Saood under protection.

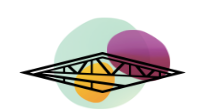
2. One of the arguments he used was that, with Nejd in security and Bin Saood under British protection, a caravan would start daily from Koweit for the interior and all its loads would be of Indian merchandise. He also said that Nejd contained with the tribes upward of three millions of men.

3. It is clear that Bin Saood and probably Mubarak himself are uneasy about the late activity of the Turks in El Kasim. Sheikh Mubarak declares now that the Turkish soldiers in Nejd are still 3,000 men.

4. In reply, I said to Sheikh Mubarak that he might rest assured that I would report this conversation to you.

G. C. Press, Simla -C294 F. D.-9-10-06-30 ..R. S. W.





No: 2182 of 1906. 202

CONFIDENTIAL

British Residency and Consulate-General, (168)

Bushire, 16 September 1906.

Copy forwarded to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to his letter No:313 dated 28th August 1906.

By Order,

J Birdwood Lieutenant,

Special Assistant to the Political Resdt: in the Persian Gulf.

Letter No: 2181 dated 16 September 1906. from Major P.Z.Cox, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf. to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.





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(168)

Demi-official, dated Bushire, the 16th (received 24th) September 1905.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—SIR LOUIS W. DANE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

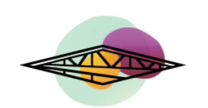
I have addressed you officially by this mail on the subject of our relations with Bin Saood, and the situation in Nejd. Would it not be possible, now that peace reigns for the time being, and Bin Saood has no active rival left in the field, to make more of the "Status quo" argument as between ourselves and the Turks, in favour of an independent Nejd? If we allow the Porte to go on pushing troops into Nejd with the intention of crushing Bin Saood and gradually advancing their outposts southwards, we shall surely regret it. I do not see how the Wahabi can go on opposing the Turks indefinitely, for where is he to get the money required for the struggle; and unless we can devise some check on Turkish aggression now, it will be all the more difficult to apply a remedy later on. Diplomatic means are likely to be more efficacious in preventing their ingress than ejecting them once they have got a footing.

The cessation of strife among the Arabs themselves and the existence of this triple alliance, which Sheikh Mubarak intimates, seems to give us an excellent opening for telling the Turks that if they cannot let well alone and leave Nejd to its hereditary chiefs, we shall be obliged to take such measures in the interests of peace as our commercial stake on the Arab littoral and the effective suppression of piracy may seem to require. They themselves are impotent to do anything serious towards the maintenance of order and good government, and by continuing complacently to put up with their interference and aggression, we shall simply allow them to create for themselves prescriptive rights of occupation at one place after another, as we have done in the case of Al Bidaa, Umm Kasr and Bubian.

I am doubtful whether any agreement with Bin Saood, except as to matters which particularly concern us, such as the preservation of the maritime truce and friendly treatment of chiefs or principalities in treaty relation with us, would be expedient, as it might deprive the Wahabi of the power, if he should prove to have it, of expelling the Turks from Nejd and Hassa, but I hope the Government of India will feel able to ask His Majesty's Government to take some steps to put the Nejd question on a more satisfactory basis.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C204 F. D.—10-10-06—10—B.B.C.





Koweit
P Gulf
14/9/6.

Dear Captain Bridwood,
The first enclosure to your endorsement no: 2076 dy. 4th Sept: 1906 calls itself no 1814 dy. 8th August 1906 but from your letter I imagine that it has been misnumbered, for it does not mention Messrs Lynch & Co at all & commences thus:—



"Para: 1.
Para: 2. It has always been realised that the question of the arms traffic to Koweit is a delicate one requiring very cautious handling."

I have therefore corrected the number. Please let me know if I am right

Yours sincerely

[signature]

Yes 25/12/06 26/12



O/C: Confidential

British Residency & Consulate-General,

Bushire, 26 September 1906.

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(170)

Dear Captain Knox

Please see your Confidential D/O letter dated 14th September. The alteration made by you is correct.

The first entry in the list of communications referred to will now read "Resident to Foreign No: 1942 of 19th August 1906".

Yours sincerely

J Birdwood

[Captai]n S.G. Knox, I.A.,

[Poli]tical Agent, Koweit.





Confidential

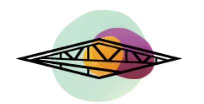
Koweit 206 (171)
Persian Gulf.
14/9/6.

My dear Major,

Your confidential D/o. of date Sept 10th 1906.

I cannot think that there is anything in the story of a general migration of Koweit to Sabiya. The name is all right & it would be slightly more probable than a migration to Subaihiya.

Subaihiya is nothing but a group of wells to the west of the Burgan hills where there is good camel grazing. It is about 35 miles south & slightly west of Koweit & about 15 from the




nearest sea coast which would be
the Adān villages of Funtass,
Fanaitīs, Aboo Halaifa &
Shiaiba. Koweit could not
live there for a week.

Sabriya is on the bay, the
opposite horn to Ras Ajuza.
From my house you look to it
almost due north. It is on the
South end of the Khor Bubiyan
& boats can only approach at
high tide over a long mud flat.
It would be a perfectly hopeless
place for the Koweit pearl boats
or for the steamers' cargo boats

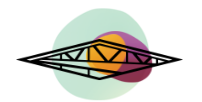


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(172)

much more so for the big Koweit trading buggilows. There is a small date garden of young trees & a scanty brackish water supply. Sheikh Mobarak may possibly be thinking of making a small settlement there & of cultivating the coast line between Umm Kasr & Sabiya which might repay his pains but it seems to me quite preposterous to imagine that he could dream of moving Koweit there. His subjects would revolt for there has been quite a lot of money sunk in Koweit in building & in wharfs, shops &c.

It is possible that Sheikh Mobarak who claims Sabiya



as undoubtedly his own, may have been trying to get Turkish recognition of his property in the place & wishes to mark his ownership in the way I have indicated.

It is also a smuggling depôt on a small scale for arms destined for Turkish Arabia & there may be some idea of improving its capabilities in this respect, so that the trade may be carried on far from my prying eyes. These are merely conjectures but far more likely to happen than what is suggested in MacDonall's report.

Yours sincerely

S G Knox

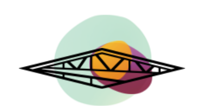


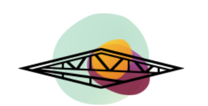
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173





(175r)

208

Private

Koweit (174)

P. Gulf.

18/9/6.

My dear Major

[I write to let you know] ~~Just a line to say~~

~~again~~ that Mobarak

was again talking about Nejd

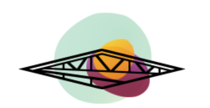
& repeating how anxious

Bin Saud was for protection.

He assured me that,

whether helped by us or

not, Bin Saud would



certainly fight before
submitting to the Turkish
demands & that the
people of Nejd would
fight too. This is probably
true so long as their side
is winning but Abdul
Aziz bin Saud has many
enemies who would of
course turn against him
without hesitation at

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I have
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to fu
acqui
I am
True



175r

209

175

the first reverse.

I have seen Mubarak twice since his return when I visited him & he me. I have not yet approached the subject of Bunder Shweikh a second time. I want to get my camel stable first as a guide to future expenses in acquiring land for, so far, I own no land in Koweit. True to my original design,

...before
...the Turkish
...that the
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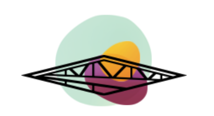
175r

I am treating Bundar Shweikh as a mere matter of routine & of no particular urgency

Yours sincerely

S G Knox

P.S. I have kept no copy of this.





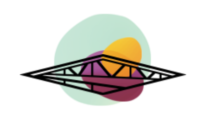
Koweit 210 (176)
Persian Gulf.
26/9/6.

My dear Major,

The following news has reached me with reference to the situation in Nejd & seems to me to have its own significance.

The Turkish authorities are said to have addressed a letter to Mutaab bin Rashid enquiring why he made peace with Abdul Aziz bin Saood & informing him that he had no authority to do so.

The Fariq, who passed through Koweit the other day, is said to



have addressed the people of El-Kasim in the following terms "I don't wish to offer you advice & I admit that the soldiers we have here are not sufficient to take El Kasim & that you are more numerous & as well armed as we are. But, if 500 of us are killed & we kill 200 of you, we can replace our 500 but whence will you replace your 200. Nejd is like a bit of string whereas the Turkish Govt. is like a bit of elastic & the Turkish Govt. must have El Kasim. Would it not be as well for you to



211

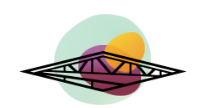
(177)

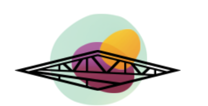
put up with the light burden it is now sought to impose on you, rather than go through the process I have described?"

From the way this story was told & came into the conversation, I do not think that it was made up for my benefit.

Yours sincerely

S G Knox





(179)

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S.A.
File Hease
PZC

BUSINESS ... Acc. No. 651.A. Date Oct 2 CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

2/10/06

Koweit 212
(178)
Persian Gulf.
28/9/6.

My dear Major,

I communicated purport of your D/o. d/. 26/9/6. to Sheikh Mobarak at an interview I held with him this morning.

This is in reply to a private note to Captain Knox saying, in reference to our office letter No. 2181 of 16th Sept. 06 that if Shaikh Mubarak importuned further regarding Bin Saood's desire for protection, he could say that his representation had been communicated to Govt and an early reply asked for. 8/10/6 PZC



He seemed quite
satisfied
Yours sincerely
S G Knox.
Subject: Bin Saood.



(179)

te

ood.





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(180)

Telegram.

TO , Foreign , Simla .

No: 378 , dated 2-10-06 .

(P). Kindly refer to my letter dated 16th of September No: 2181 para 7.

An apparently well founded report has since been communicated by Knox to the effect that the Turkish authorit[ies] have written to Bin Rashid asking him why he made peace with Bin Saood and informing him that there was no authority for his action.

(Foreign).

[signature]

53/7 V





215

Confidential.

No. 2344, dated Bushire, the 6th (received 15th) October 1906.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—SIR LOUIS W. DANE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

In continuation of the communications marginally noted, I have the honour to forward, for the information of Government of India, extracts from news-letters* since received from Captain S. G. Knox, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit, regarding the outlook in Nejd.

Letter No. 2181, dated 16th September 1906, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla.

Telegram No. 378, dated 2nd October 1906, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla.

* Dated 18th and 26th September 1906.

Extract from a news letter, dated 18th September 1906, from Captain S. G. Knox, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit, to Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I write to let you know that Mubarak was again talking about Nejd and repeating how anxious Bin Saood was for protection.

He assured me that, whether helped by us or not, Bin Saood would certainly fight before submitting to the Turkish demands and that the people of Nejd would fight too. This is probably true as long as their side is winning but Abdul Aziz bin Saood has many enemies who would of course turn against him without hesitation at the first reverse.

* * * * * * * *

Extract from a news-letter, dated 26th September 1906, from Captain S. G. Knox, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit, to Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

The following news has reached me with reference to the situation in Nejd and seems to me to have its own significance.

The Turkish authorities are said to have addressed a letter to Meta'ab bin Rashid enquiring why he made peace with Abdul Aziz bin Saood and informing him that he had no authority to do so.

The Fariq, who passed through Koweit the other day, is said to have addressed the people of El Kassim in the following terms :—

"I do not wish to offer you advice and I admit that the soldiers we have here are not sufficient to take El Kassim and that you are more numerous and as well armed as we are. But, if 500 of us are killed and we kill 200 of you, we can replace our 500, but whence will you replace your 200? Nejd is a bit of string whereas the Turkish Government is like a bit of elastic *and the Turkish Government must have El Kassim.* Would it not be as well for you to put up with the light burden it is now sought to impose on you, rather than go through the process I have described?"

From the way this story was told and came into the conversation, I do not think that it was made up for my benefit.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C-348 F. D.—24-10 06—57.—R. S. W.





Telegram No S100 d 8-10-06

from Governme t of India to Resident

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P. It is suggested that the frequent visits recent -ly paid by the Shaikh of Koweit to Shaikh Khazal together with the reconciliation arrived at between Bin Saood and Bin Rashid indicate the possibility that these individuals are contemplating the forma tion of a compact with the object of achieving inde- -pendence from the domination of the Porte or any other foreign power. Please state by telegram if you con -sider that any such measure is possibly contemplated by them.

Telegram No 396 d 10th Oct. 06

Resident to Foreign & Foreign with Viceroy.

53/7 V

30

P. With reference to your telegram of 8th October. The contingency alluded to is not adumbrated in any recent reports from Koweit or Mahommerah. On the other hand recent changes in the politic situa- -tion in Central Arabia already communicated to Go -vernment give reasonable grounds for the supposition that the Arabs of Nejd have been driven to desper- -ation by the Porte's persistent interference and may be disposed to combine in order to free themselves from the bur- -den, and the Shaikh of Maomerah may be interestd as adviser and friend of Mubarak. I think they all realise however that they could not permanently succeed unassis -ted even as an Arab confederacy and must recognise the indispensability of protective support from a Christian power preferably ourselves, if we are prepared to give it in time and effectively.





53/7 V

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 2991 Date 8 OCT 1906 PERSIAN GULF

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(183)

[CON]FIDENTIAL.

No. 805 of 1906.

From

Major J.Ramsay C.I.E,

Offg: Political Resident in Turkish Arabia

& Acting British Consul General,

Baghdad.

To

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf

& H.B.M's Consul General for Fars ,

Bushire.

British Residency & Consulate General,

Baghdad,29th September,1906.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.2139 dated the 15th September 1906,I have the honour to enclose herewith a note by Mr.Gaskin on Nedjed Affairs.

I am sending copies of this note to H.B.M's Ambassador at Constantinople,to the Government of India and to H.B.M's Consul at Basrah.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Major

Political Resident in Turkish Arabia and
H. B. M.'s Consul General,
Baghdad.





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Memorandum of information obtained by Mr.Gaskin [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

With reference to the Turkish occupation,he informed me that there were only about 50 Turkish soldiers under a Kulaghasy at Boreida and a similar detachment at 'Aneza,and the main body,consisting of over a thousand Infantry,a few Cavalry with 4 heavy field guns and 5 or 6 lighter pieces,stationed at Sheihiya,a village about 5 or 6 hours ride W.N.W of Boreida,under the command of Sami Pasha.

The Turks are there on sufferance,and do not inter--fere in any way with the local affairs,and confine themselves to their quarters,only leaving them when going to purchase food or going to the Mosque for prayers.

The troops are rationed by their own Government. The Amir does not provide them with anything. They are wretchedly off. Many of the officers and men are con--tinually deserting. If no fresh troops are sent to relieve the present garrison before long no soldiers will be left in Kassim through the wastage by disease and desertions.

As regards the young Amir,he stated that the people of Jabal Shammar are very hopeful of him,and he has gained their affection through his straightforwardness, generosity,and the habit of carrying out no undertaking without consulting all the elders of the Al-Rashid clan and listening to the best advice. He has remitted the tribal taxes for the current year,and re-instituted the payment of annual allowances to the various tribal chiefs,retainers,and charities on the same scale as that

paid





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paid by his grandfather. These allowances had been reduced by his father.

After reducing to obedience the Heteim and Shararat tribes occupying the tract of country lying between Teima and Jowf, the Amir on about the last week of August 1906 attacked the Muteir Arabs, adherents of Bin Sa'ud, in Kassim and carried away such plunder in the shape of camels, horses, cattle and sheep.

Regarding the general feeling of the Arabs towards the Turks, my informant declared that there is a growing discontent and dislike towards them because of their unjust demands and harsh treatment, the life of the Arabs is becoming harder every year, and poverty is overshadowing them. Many of the Arab Chiefs whose incomes amount to 400 or 500 Liras, which would be sufficient under ordinary conditions for their needs, are reduced to beggary on account of the exactions of the Turkish officials. The Arabs are longing to throw off the Turks and become independent or to come under the protection of the Great Powers as in the case of Bulgaria and Roumelia. With this view recently a Hiteim Chief whose brother is imprisoned by the Turks and not yet released, though the amount of bribes demanded by the officials have been paid, has proposed to the Sheikh of the Muntafik Arabs the formation of a strong confederacy of all the tribes for the purpose of turning the Turks out of Arabia and applying subsequently to the Great Powers for protection. The Muntafik Sheikh did not fall in with the views of the Hiteim Sheikh as the Arabs consider the Hiteim are of inferior blood and a proposal coming from such a source would not be taken up by other Arabs.

My informant also informed me that cereals were very expensive in Jabal Shammar and Kassim, and prices ranged five or six times as high as those on the Euphrates owing to the limited produce available in the regions mentioned





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mentioned. He explained that the fields are irrigated by water drawn from wells by camels, and these animals cannot stand the work, and in two months they become useless and are sold for a fifth of their original price and though there is plenty of water and arable land, for this reason they find it just as cheap to import their grain from the districts on the Euphrates. He has heard of the recent importations of pumps into Baghdad for purposes of irrigation and he is very much interested in the matter as he thinks that these appliances would meet with much favour in the regions indicated as the whole of the cultivable land may be brought under culti--vation by their employment. He understands that the price of Russian Kerosine oil necessary for working the oil-engine which drives the pump is about 30% dearer in Jabal Shammar than at Koweit from where it will have to be procured, and that proper mechanics will have to be engaged to work the engines Sea from Baghdad at a higher rate of pay than they receive locally. He wishes to pro--cure definite information as regards a pumping plant capable of raising a similar quantity of water as 10 or 11 Bahras* from a depth of 8 to 9 metres. When the details are forthcoming he proposes to transmit them to the Amir of Jabal Shammar and suggest to him the purchase of such a pumping plant for erection at Hayil as a trial. If the venture meets with success he declares that over 200 plants will be required in the localities mentioned alone. He asked me whether I would assist him in obtain--ing the details of a suitable plant — a plant that can be carried in pieces weighing from 2 to 2½ Cwts each for transport by camel.

In respect of the appearance of several sections of the Aneza tribe of Arabs on the Euphrates between

Husayib





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(87)

Musayib and Nedjef he stated that it was nothing unusual. He explained that it was customary for these Arabs to camp in that neighbourhood during this season of the year so long as the grazing round-about supported their camels, cattle and flocks. About 15 years ago the Aneza fell out with the Amir of Jabal Shammar and to avoid being raided by the Amir they kept aloof from the lower reaches of the Euphrates, but now that they have come to an understanding with the Amir they need no longer take that precaution. There are several thousands of tents scattered in groups of 200 to 500 throughout the region mentioned.

(signed) J.G.Gaskin.
24th September 1906.

Note by Major Ramsay.

Mr.Gaskin's informant is in a position to have the latest and most accurate information of what is going on in the Ibn Rashid camp and counsels. The interview took place in the house of an Indian resident of Baghdad. I did not take part in it as my movements are carefully watched.

Mut'ib ibn Rashid is said to have received an order on the Karbala District for £.T.250 a month. This is not regularly paid and the local officials are trying to get a bribe to induce them to pay: this Mut'ib has refused to pay. From another source I hear that the Sultan's Aide-de-Camp, who went to take a decoration to Mut'ib, had got as far as Hayil.

(signed) J.Ramsay Major
29th September.1906.





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(188)

Confidential.

(1) No 2380
(2) No 2379 d/ 10th October 1906

The Copies of the undermentioned telegrams are for -warded with compliments to (1) H.B.M.Consul Mahommrah
(2) The Political Agt Koweit

for favour of an expression of his views in regard to the contingency indicated in the Government of India's Telegram . The Residency communication re- -ferred to merely reported the recent attitude of the Porte towards Mitaab bin Rashid .

P. Z. C.
Major
etc etc ,

x No 5100 of 8.10.06
G of I to Resdt

No 396 of 10.10.06
Resdt to (1) Foreign Simla
(2) Foreign Camp





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OFFICE ~~NOTE~~. Copy

of D.O. letter d/ 10.10.06
from J.H. Bill Esq. F.A.R
To Major S Knox P.A. Koweit.

— a —

Major Cox has asked
me to write to you as follows
on his behalf in order
to save the mail.

There is a report
current here in shipping
circles that a short
time ago some cases
consigned from Bombay
to Sh. Mubarak & carried
by the B.I. Coy were
overcarried by the steamer
& landed at Bussorah
before the mistake was
discovered. On the B.I.

S 1918—5,000-3-06



— 3 —

Agents asking for them back the Turkish Customs refused to release them without payment of duty on the ground that their proper destination, Koweit, being Turkish territory, they were clearly liable for duty. This is the class of incident that makes Sh. Mubarak so dissatisfied with the amount of assistance wh. we give him. I do not want you to broach the subject in Koweit, but please let me know, if any details reach you from the mail etc or other source, what the precise facts are.

JHM.

10/10.



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[Conf]idential.

No. 3900 -E/B.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 3030 Date 11.OCT.1906 PERSIAN GULF.

A copy of the foregoing communication, with its enclosure , is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information.

By order, etc.,

R E Holland

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,

Simla;

The 2nd ~~September~~ October 1906.

Letter from Sir N.O'Conor to Sir E.Grey, No. 511 of 25th July 1906.

(Received with letter from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, No. ~~34~~ 36, dated 24th August 1906.)

File please 14/10/06 PKC



No. 3900 -E/B.

A copy of the foregoing communication, with its enclosure is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information.

By order, etc.,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,

Simla;

The 2? ~~September~~ October 1906.

Letter from Sir N.O'Conor to Sir E.Grey, No. 511 of 25th July 1906.

(Received with letter from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, No. 34, dated 24th August 1906.)



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(191)

(Copy)

Received on the 10th September 1906 with Political Secretary's letter No. 34, dated 24th August 1906.

Enclosure in Foreign Office covering letter of August 8, 1906.

Sir N.O'Conor to Sir E.Grey.

No. 511. Therapia,
July 25th 1906.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 490 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report that I received on the 17th ultimo a telegram from His Majesty's Consul at Basra informing me that two negroes who possess information about the Maaghil affair had been handed over to the Turkish authorities by the Sheikh of Mohammera, but that he had not surrendered the persons who were alleged by the Turks to be implicated in the outrage although they had been arrested.

I transmit herewith copy of a despatch from

Mr.



(Copy)

Received on the 10th September 1906 with Political Secretary's letter No. 54, dated 24th August 1906.

Enclosure in Foreign Office covering letter of August 8, 1906.

Sir N.O'Conor to Sir E.Grey.

No. 511. Therapia,
July 25th 1906.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 490 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report that I received on the 17th ultimo a telegram from His Majesty's Consul at Basra informing me that two negroes who possess information about the Mashgil affair had been handed over to the Turkish authorities by the Sheikh of Mohammera, but that he had not surrendered the persons who were alleged by the Turks to be implicated in the outrage although they had been arrested.

I transmit herewith copy of a despatch from

Mr.

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Mr. Crow confirming the information contained in his telegram. It would appear from the examination of the two surrendered negroes made by His Majesty's Consul at Mohammera that they have received orders from the Sheikh to deny that any Maadan Arabs were implicated in the outrage; and Mr. Crow believes that both the Sheikh of Mohammerah and his deputy Mirza Hamza have special reasons for wishing to screen the three Mandan Arabs who have known to have taken refuge on Persian territory and are charged by the Turkish authorities with direct complicity in the attack on Messrs Lynch's depôt and the murder of Mr. Glanville.

I have informed His Majesty's Chargé d' Affaires at Tehran that these Arabs have not been given up notwithstanding the orders to that effect sent from Tehran, and I have again pressed that instructions should be sent to Mohammerah for their immediate surrender.

In these circumstances, I do not think that the delay which has occurred in bringing the culprits to justice can be attributed wholly to negligence or indifference on the part of the Turkish authorities and I am instructing Mr. Crow by telegraph to proceed

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with



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with the trial of those already arrested. I trust that in view of the stringent instructions sent to Majid Bey, the Acting Vali of Basra, by the Grand Vizier, the court martial will terminate its investigation without further delay.

I have, etc.,
Sd. N.R.O'Conor.

Mr. Crow to Sir N.O'Conor.

British Consulate,
Basra,
June 28th 1906.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram No. 49 of June 16, I have the honour to report that a certain Mirjan and his brother alleged by the Sheikh of Mohammerah to be connected with the preparators of the outrage at Maghil were handed over by him to the Turkish authorities on June 14th. The Sheikh of Mohammerah caused these men to be examined in Mr. McDouall's presence before leaving and Mr. Mc Douall sent me a copy of the notes taken by him of their examination. Their admission to which I referred in my despatch

No.



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No.



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No. 33 of May 18, amounts to very little. Mirjan said he was going with the gang before, but not during the attack, and that they were led by a negro whose wife was a servant at Lynch's depôt at Maghil. He gave the names of 13 persons who formed the gang two only of which correspond to those obtained by the Turks. He stated that the plunder consisted of two breech-loading guns, a clock, some clothing and two or three liras; that some of the things were disposed of at Haweyza and that no Ma'dan Arabs were connected in the attack. Mesheyil, brother of Mirjan, said that he knew nothing of the matter except that his brother was with the gang on the road but not at Maghil.

I sent a translation of this statement to the Acting Vali for the information of the Court Martial.

The prisoners were brought before the Court Martial on June 19th and examined in the presence of my dragoman. They both absolutely denied any knowledge whatever of the outrage at Maghil or of the persons who commited it and stated that their admissions at Mohammerah were made under compulsion.

On



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On



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On the 26th of June they were again examined by the Court in the presence of my dragoman and again denied all knowledge of the affair, adding that the story put into their mouths at Mohammerah was concocted entirely by the Sheikh himself.

I am inclined to think that the Sheikh of Mohammerah, like Mirza Hamza, his adjunct, wishes to screen the three Ma'dan Arabs accused by the Turks of having taken part in the outrage, who have taken refuge on his territory and who are to some extent his dependents. Anxious at the same time to conform to his instructions and make a show of helping us he has arrested these two men, who are already fugitives from justice, and who have for some reason incurred his displeasure. He has been careful to make ~~xxx~~ them say that no Ma'dan are implicated and has put into their mouths what he considers a plausible story, having previously warned us that the prisoners would probably deny their statements on examination at Basra.

The private information obtained by Mr. Mc Donall and forwarded in my despatch No. 40, of June 9th tends to show that the Ma'dan Arabs whom the Sheikh now protects were much compromised in the




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The private information obtained by Mr. Mc Donell and forwarded in my despatch No. 40, of June 9th tends to show that the Ma'dan Arabs whom the Shaikh now protests were much compromised in the



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affair, and I am inclined to believe that our original information, as confirmed by the admission of Dahayesh and the statement of Mr. Mc Donall's informant is substatially correct and that the Sheikh of Mohammerah is merely throwing dust in our eyes and screening the true offenders from justice.

I see no likelihood of catching any more culprits and it would now perhaps be as well to urge for the immediate trial of those already arrested, as suggested in the last paragraph of Your Excellency's telegram of May 9th last.

I have, etc.,

Sd. F.E.Crow.



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I have, etc.,

Sd. F.E.Crow.



Spare

No: 1/C of 1906. Written by P.A. at Bushire 231 (197)

Political Agency, Koweit,

Dated Camp, the 13th October 1906.

From

Major S. G. Knox, I.A.,

Political Agent, Koweit.

To

Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,

Political Resident in the

Persian Gulf, Bushire.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No: 2379 dated 10th October 1906 in which I am honoured by the request for an expression of my views as to the possible combination between the four Chiefs of Mohammerah, Koweit, Riadh and Hail with the view of forming an Arab Confederacy independent of any Foreign Power and especially of the Porte.

2. In reply I have the honour to state that I think such a contingency extremely unlikely and I am also of the opinion that neither Sheikh Mobarek or Sheikh Khazal can possibly entertain any illusions as to the durability of such a confederacy.

3. First and foremost, the peace patched up between Abdul Aziz bin Saood and Metáab bin Rashid seems to be a hollow truce which will be broken on the first opportunity i.e. as soon as ever one of the conflicting parties sees his way to deal a telling blow at the strength and prestige of the other. It is true that Bin Saood would probably make considerable concessions to keep the Turk out of Nejd and El Kassim but he can have no confidence in either the ability or willingness of Meta'ab bin Rashid to assist him in such an undertaking.

The Bin Rashid family, on the other hand, are in such low water just now that they would probably welcome

Turkish





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Turkish interference and willingly accept a subordinate position under the Turkish authorities, provided the Bin Saood dynasty was destroyed.

Thus the two factions, apart from the jealousy which has now become a second nature to them and the long blood feud account still unsettled, are hopelessly divided on what may be called their foreign policy.

4. Indications have not been wanting to show that the bond that unites the families of As-Saood and As-Subah is a loose one and that the Bedouins who live by plunder and lightly transfer their allegiance from one party to the other, as suits their own convenience, will almost certainly cause trouble between the two chiefs, unless they both show a restraint and moderation utterly foreign to Arab nature. It is, I venture to think, only Bin Saood's dread of Turkish encroachment and dominion that has so far kept him wary of offending Sheikh Mubarek.

5. Nothing serves to unite the interests of As-Subah and Bin-Rashid except a regard for the blessings of commerce and the maintenance of order. These considerations are not likely to weigh heavily with either side and least of all with Bin Rashid.

6. On the other hand, it would seem that Sheikhs Khazal and Mubarek have nothing whatever to quarrel about, while they are both large owners of date gardens, both draw a large income from the smuggling of arms and ammunition, both dislike the interference of the Belgian Customs, and both are anxious to maintain their independence, the one of Persian and the other of Turkish dominion. Each can help the other in these questions by advice, information mutual loans, combinations to raise the price of dates or rifles etc., These matters alone would be quite sufficient to account for frequent conferences and I think there is no reason to attribute to them the more far reaching designs sketched out in the Government of India telegram,

the





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the impracticability of which the two Chiefs would be the first to realise.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(sd). S.G. Knox. Major,

Political Agent, Koweit.





(200)
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No: 2405 of 1906.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 13th October 1906.

Copy forwarded to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information with the compliments of the undersigned.

By Order,

Lieutenant,

Special Assistant to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

+:+

Letter No: 805 dated 29th September 1906, from the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, Baghdad, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire, with enclosure.

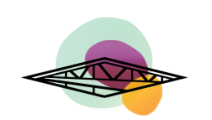
P.A. Koweit.

Will you take this now or shall I send it by post.?

13/10/06

Thanks I have taken over

13/10/6





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(201)

[Confidential.]

No. 2438, dated Bushire, the 14th (received 24th) October 1906.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—SIR LOUIS DANE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In continuation of my letter marginally noted, giving cover to a copy of Mr. Crow's despatch No. 62 of 31st August 1906 to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of his interview with Sudgi Pasha, and referring also to the allowances paid by the Porte to the rivals in Nejd, I have the honour to forward, a copy of a report which I have received from the Political Agent, Koweit, in reply to an enquiry on the latter subject, for the information of the Government of India. A copy is also being forwarded to His Majesty's Consul, Basrah.

Resident to Foreign, No. 2139, dated the 15th September 1906.

Koweit, No. 379, dated the 30th September 1906.

2. I take the opportunity to mention at the same time that I have since had an opportunity of discussing with Major Knox the subject of Sudgi Pasha's return from Nejd with 300 men *viâ Koweit*, which was reported in article 1039 of this Office Diary for the week ending 2nd September; and have the honour to invite consideration to an aspect of the incident which inevitably suggests itself.

It will doubtless have been noticed that the Turkish Officer and his men were got out of the place by Sheikh Mubarak with all possible despatch and although Sheikh Mubarak and his subjects would probably be too proud to admit that their presence in Koweit caused any actual trepidation, it can hardly be doubted that the pulses of both one and the other were considerably quickened by the unwelcome visitation.

On this occasion their arrival was fortuitous and their intentions were doubtless innocuous, but as a precedent the incident is a somewhat inconvenient one, for it is possible to conceive that the experiment might be repeated with a larger force from Nejd or Baghdad, and that having arrived by this means a Turkish force might for the time being easily possess themselves of the town and of Sheikh Mubarak by a *coup de main* similar to that which the Bedouins effected in Maskat in 1895.

3. I venture to draw attention to the possibility, in case it might be considered desirable for us to give Sheikh Mubarak any advice on the subject for future guidance, or to suggest to the Porte that the course taken in this case seems to us open to objection and calculated to disturb unnecessarily the minds of the Koweit public, including British subjects.

If the Porte wants to put troops into Nejd, or get them out of Nejd, it is reasonable to argue that they should use Ojair for the purpose and not the territory of a neutral Chief.

No. 379, dated the 30th September 1906.

From—CAPTAIN S. G. KNOX, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,

To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 2140, dated 15th September 1906, on the subject of the allowances paid to Bin Saood and Bin Rashid by the Turkish Government.

2. In reply, I have the honour to inform you that Sheikh Mubarak informs me that the allowances are fixed as follows :—

For Abdur Rahman bin Feysul bin Saood, Turkish £ 90 per mensem.

For Meta'ab bin Rashid, 200 tigars rice per annum and Turkish £200 per mensem.



In addition to the above, Meta'ab's predecessors used to receive presents of arms and ammunition.

3. Sheikh Mubarak says that the allowances to Bin Rashid are paid through the Baghdad authorities, and that Yusuf Pasha bin Mandil, a Basrah merchant, draws the Saood allowances from the Basrah authorities and remits them by cheque to Abdulla Nafisi, a Koweit shopkeeper, who hands the money to Bin Saood's emissaries.

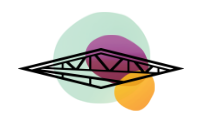
4. At the same time, enquiries I have made in another direction confirm His Britannic Majesty's Consul's statement that the allowances are paid through Sheikh Mubarak in the way indicated but, at the same time, my informant said that there was no regular channel and that the payments were made in whatever manner was most convenient.

5. While I was discussing this matter with Sheikh Mubarak, he suddenly turned to me and said "You have been asking me about Bin Rashid's and Bin Saood's pay, but you don't ask me any question about my pay?" I said "Surely, you don't draw any pay?". He replied "No, I do not, but the Turkish authorities at Basrah are for ever pressing me to accept it. Instead of that, I pay them and when they ask me for Turkish £200, I send them T. £600. I told them in reply to their insistence that the receipt of pay from the Turkish Government had ceased to be a source of honour and had, therefore, no longer any attractions for me and that, thanks be to God! I had plenty of money".

Copy of P.A's letter sent to Basra under our endorsement 2441 of 13.10.06

HS 20/10/06

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C365 F. D.—5-11-06.—57—H.A.W.



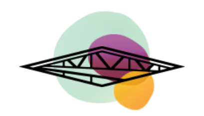
236

53/7 30

13/10/6. (202)

My dear Bill,

With reference to your D/o. of the 10th instant about overcarried parcels of Sheikh Mobarak. I have heard nothing from the Sheikh himself about them & the B. I. agent at Koweit declares that no manifested packages belonging to the Sheikh have been



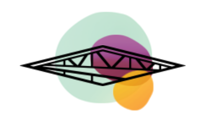
overcarried during his
stay at Koweit. He suggest
that they may be favored
parcels which are what
the Sheikh usually gets.

At the same time, Crow,
writing from Basra about
a month ago casually
referred to some difficulty
that he was having in a
case of this kind. I
should think that he will

give you ...
informal...
than I h...
to dis con...

Your...

P.O.
Write to



227

203

give you more satisfactory information on the subject than I have been able to discover

Yours sincerely

S. G. Knox.

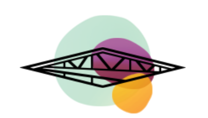
P. R.

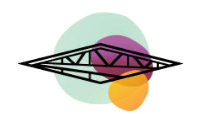
Write to Lorimer?

[illegible]
14/10

[illegible] 14/10/06

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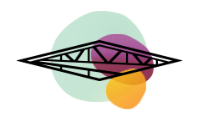


Basra 238
(204)
October 13th 1906.

My dear Cox,

Many thanks for your letters of Oct. 8th and 10th, with news from Nejd. We expect to go to Baghdad at the end of this month

53/7 V
30



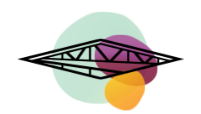
The new Vali Hassan
Bey, ex Vali of Kharput
has been appointed,
but I hear has not
yet left Constple. [I don't
think there is anything
in the report given
me by a Turkish
official the other day.



205

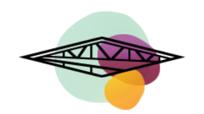
that the Russian Odessa
S. N. Co. are sending out
small steamers to do
the cabotage service from
Katif to Basra. Have
you heard anything
about it? [53/32 II]
Steamer got the over-
carried Yorris cargo released
which was brought here in
a B. I steamer and
impounded by the Customs.
They demand full duty on

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]



the ground that Koweit is Ottoman territory and has no Custom House. The central Customs have issued strict orders to treat Koweit and Bahrein as parts of the Turkish Empire for Customs purposes - and the Embassy think it undesirable to raise any question as to the status of Koweit for the sake of the duty on two bales of goods. I have told the agents to try and reship to Bombay - yrs sincerely

[illegible]





Confidential Not compiled

239 (206)

No. 52

British Consulate
Mohammerah October 13th 1906

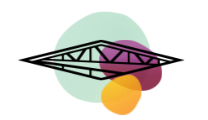
Sir,

I have the honour to inform you with reference to your endorsement No 2380 of October 10th & copies of telegrams concerning the Sheikhs of Mohammerah, Koweyt, and central Arabia that my views on the subject are practically those expressed in your telegram.

I have no information as to the objects of Sheikh Mubarek's visits except that he appears to be trying to

H.B.M. Consul General
Fars Khuzistan &c.

effect




effect a reconciliation with all his old enemies and he can from the Sardar Arfa's palace communicate with people at Basreh and elsewhere without attracting attention. Many of the influential sheikhs such as Bin Rashid, Ghazban of the Beni Lam and others occasionally communicate with the Sardar Arfa.

As to the Sardar Arfa from conversations with him, especially when Colonel Meade was here about seven years ago, I am certain that he is fully convinced that he cannot stand alone and, being a Shiah, prefers Persian, if it can last, to Turkish suzerainty. His fear has always been that Persia will break up and then he must find

protection



(207)

protection against Turkey. He considered the interests of the whole country in the vicinity of the Shat-el-Arab identical and British negotiations with Mubarek raised hopes that protection given to Koweyt to the South of the mouth of the Shat el Arab would in time lead to protection being given to the country to the north thereof, inhabited by his Arabs.

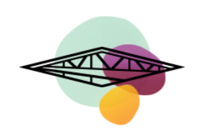
I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

WMcDouall

HBM Consul for Arabistan





53/7

(208) 240

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 829 of 1906.

From

Major J.Ramsay C.I.E.,

Offg: Political Resident in Turkish Arabia

& Acting British Consul General,

Baghdad.

To

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf

& H.B.M's Consul General for Fars &ca,

Bushire.

British Residency & Consulate General,

Baghdad, 8th October, 1906.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your confi--dential letter No.2139 dated the 15th September 1906.

2. With my letter No.805 dated the 29th September 1906 I sent to you a memorandum of information about Mut'ib ibn Rashid. I regret to say that I can get no reliable information about payments made by the Turkish authorities to Abdul Aziz ibn Sa'ud. I hear however from a pro-Rashid source that Abdul Aziz ibn Sa'ud used to get £.T.30 a month from the Basrah Vilayet, and that he used also to receive annually 100 suits of clothes and some grain. My informant says that these allowances have now been stopped.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

[signature] Major

Offg: *Political Resident in Turkish Arabia and H. B. M.'s Consul General, Baghdad.*

Copy to Foreign in cont.n of No. 2435 of 14/10/06 PZC





241 (209)

Confidential

No. 54

British Consulate
Mohammerah October 17th 1906

Sir,

In continuation of my No. 52 of 13th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I have made enquiries as to communication here between Sheikh Mubarek and Central Arabian chiefs and am told that when he was here a month ago, a representative of Bin Raschid met him on board the "Iran" and Sheikh Khazʿal was heard to say "if you "three are one I will support you" or words to that effect. On an Arab

V

To
H.B.M. Consul General
of Fars / Bushire etc. etc.

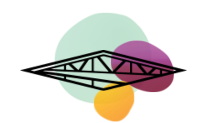
of




of Basrah, Ibn Mendil, coming alongside, Sheikh Khazal segned to Bin Rashid's man to withdraw. Nothing as to the subject discussed is known.

Whatever the subject may have been I see no reason to alter my opinion as expressed in my letter under reference. Sheikh Khazal even by those not friendly to him, is acknowledged to be the cleverest Sheikh who has ruled in these parts, and though he cultivates friendly relations with other powerful Sheikhs whenever possible, would not do anything to put himself in a false position with either the Persian or Turkish government.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
W McDouall



No: 2477 of 1906.

242 (210)

Confidential.

o/c

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 21st October 1906.

From

Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To

Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
S I M L A.

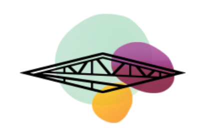
Sir,

In continuation of my telegram No: 396 dated 10th October 1906, I have the honour to forward copies of

Koweit No: 1/C dated 13th October 1906.	communications received from the Political
Mohammerah No: 53 dated 13th October 1906.	
Mohammerah No: 54 dated 17th October 1906.	

Agent at Koweit, and His Majesty's Consul at Mohammerah, on the subject of a possible Arab confederacy.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
[signature] Major,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





(211)

243

CONFIDENTIAL

No: 2478 of 1906.
British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 21st October 1906.

O/C

From

Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To

Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
S I M L A.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the following for the information of the Government of India.

2. It was rumoured locally some three weeks ago that certain packages for Sheikh Mubarak, overcarried to Bussorah, had been detained by the Customs there for duty, which the British India Steam Navigation Company demurred to pay. I was awaiting confirmation from Koweit or Bussorah before mentioning the incident to Government.

Mr. Consul Crow has since been good enough to send me news of it and writes that the cargo in question has been impounded and a demand for full duty made on the ground that Koweit is Ottoman territory and has no Custom House. He adds that the Central Turkish Customs have issued strict orders for the treatment of Koweit and Bahrein as ports of the Turkish Empire for Customs purposes, and that His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople think it undesirable to raise any question as to the Status of Koweit for the sake of the duty on two bales of goods. He has accordingly advised the British India Agents to endeavour to re-ship

the





244 (212)

the goods to Bombay.

3. The decision of His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople was no doubt arrived at after full consideration of the circumstances, and I am not prepared to question the wisdom of it.

On the other hand I think the Government of India will realise from the past history of our dealings with the Ruler of Koweit that this is just one of those incidents which Sheikh Mubarek most resents, and which inevitably impress him with the timidity of our support; and that as long as it is considered necessary that our policy in regard to him should follow such lines, the Government of India cannot expect Sheikh Mubarek to be whole-hearted or single-minded in his dealings with their local representatives.

There is no direct evidence to show that his recent hesitation to carry out his undertaking in regard to the use of the distinctive flag is due to this incident, but I may say this, that if I had known of it in time, I should have asked Captain Knox to postpone any communication to Mubarek with a view to the introduction of the new Flag, until a more propitious opportunity presented itself.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

P.Z.C. Major,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No. 2479 of 1906
Bushire ~~21st~~ 25 October 1906
Copy forwarded to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information.

[signature]
Fa





Confidential.

No: 2480 of 1906.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 21/? October 1906.

243 (213)

From

Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To

Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
S I M L A.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No: 2438 dated 14th October 1906, I have the honour to forward a copy of a Baghdad No: 829 dated 8th October 1906. communication received from the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, on the subject of the "bin Saood" and "bin Rashid" representations.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

P. Z. Cox Major,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.



No: 2482 of 1906.

(214)

246

Confidential.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 21st October 1906.

From

Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To

Major J. Ramsay, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in Turkish Arabia,
B A G H D A D.

Sir,

In acknowledging with thanks the receipt of your letter No: 829 dated 8th instant, I have the honour to forward a copy of a communication received from the Political Agent, Koweit, No: 379 dated 30th September 1906. on the subject of the allowances paid by the Porte to Bin Saood and Bin Rashid.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
P. Z. Cox Major,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





247

(215)

Mr Crow presents his compliments to His Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of his letters 2381+ of October 10th and 2441 of October 13th regarding Nejd affairs.

53/7
50

Basra. Oct. 22. 1906.

+ in town file 19/8 Vol 2.





248 (216)

Basra.
Nov. 10. 1906.

My dear Cox,
I hear that the people of Kasim asked Sami Pasha to limit the force in Kasim to one batt: and send the rest away. The matter was referred to Constple. with the result that the Sultan decided to retain 2 batts: in Kasim

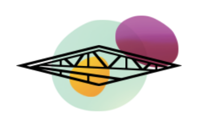


and in a given time to
reduce the force to one
batn.
Orders were sent by the
VI Army Corps Commdr. to
Kasim to withdraw all
troops except 2 batns:
about a month ago.
The officers here say they
have 9 batns altogether
(but none up to full strength)
belonging to the VI Army
Corps in Kasim. They

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... by the
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... say they
... then
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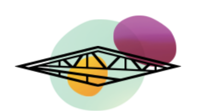
249 (217)

Melon about 200 men &
each bati. I hear they
are preparing to leave.
Kasim and that the
Medina tribes are also
leave.
I have told them
I leave for Bagdad
tomorrow.
yrs ever.
F. Crow



OFFICE NOTE.

S 1918 —5,000-3-06



(218)

250

Telegram.

FROM , Foreign , Simla .

No: S.148 . , dated 13-11-06 .

(P). Nejd. The following telegram received from the Sect: of State for India dated 9th of November is repeated for guidance. Begins.

" Reference to the letter from Major Cox dated Septeber the 16th which was forwarded with Secretary's letter No: 41 dated October the 11th, please see the telegrams from my predecessor dated February the 8th and December 30th 1904. The view is maintained by H.M.'s Govt: that their influence and interests should be confined to the coast. Without a previous sanction no steps should be taken to enter into relations with Nejd or to send agents into the interior." Ends.

The references quoted are enclosures to G. of I. letter No: 2918 E.A. dated September 7th 1904 para 4 , and telegram dated Jan: 23rd 1905 . p 19 file 53/7d

(Foreign).

DB 17/11/06

We had better ask Foreign to instruct us as to the terms of the reply which should be given to Shaikh Mubarak & Shaikh Jasim. Please put up for mail. PZC 19/11/06





No 500 of 1906 257 (219)

Political Agency Bahrain

Dated the 17th of November 1906

Confidential

(Typed by Mr Inam ul Hak) 448

To

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf

Bushire.

Sir

See P.A. Bahrein's D.O. No 448 of 13.10.06 file 58/2

I have the honour to report that on the 10th October 1906 I received a brief note, translation attached, from Shaikh Jasim bin Thani, written with his own hand, requesting me to visit him for a few minutes' conversation.

2. It was inconvenient for me to go to Lusail within a reasonable time after the receipt of this note; I therefore deputed my Interpreter, Mr Inam-ul Hak, to visit Shaikh Jasim, instructing him only to receive the old Chief's message, and not to give any reply in my name. Mr Inam ul Hak reached Lusail on the 23rd October 1906, and left the following day for Doha in the boat by which he had travelled from Bahrain, as he would otherwise have been detained at Lusail for an indefinite time waiting for a means of return.

3. Shaikh Jasim's message transpired to be connected with the affairs of Abdul Aziz bin Sa'ūd. The latter had requested his friend to communicate with me, because he suspected that the Chief of Kowait had been representing his cause to the Government of India in lukewarm manner and it seemed possible that Shaikh Mubarak was afraid of his own importance being overshadowed if Abdul Aziz

Succeeded



257 (218)

Confidential

No 590 of 1908
Political Agency Bahrain
Dated the 17th of November 1908

To

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf
Bushire.

See P.A. Bahrain's d.o. No 648 of 18.10.08

Sir

I have the honour to report that on the 19th October 1908 I received a brief note, translation attached, from Shaikh Jasim bin Thani, written with his own hand, requesting me to visit him for a few minutes' conversation.

2. It was inconvenient for me to go to Luasil within a reasonable time after the receipt of this note; I therefore deputed my Interpreter, Mr Inam-ul Hak, to visit Shaikh Jasim, instructing him only to receive the old Chief's message, and not to give any reply in my name. Mr Inam ul Hak reached Luasil on the 23rd October 1908, and left the following day for Doha in the boat by which he had travelled from Bahrain, as he would otherwise have been detained at Luasil for an indefinite time waiting for a means of return.

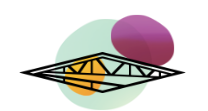
3. Shaikh Jasim's message transpired to be connected with the affairs of Abdul Aziz bin Sa'ud. The latter had requested his friend to communicate with me, because he suspected that the Chief of Kowait had been representing his cause to the Government of India in lukewarm manner and it seemed possible that Shaikh Mubarak was afraid of his own importance being overshadowed if Abdul Aziz

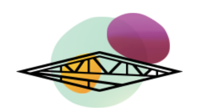
Succeeded



succeeded in achieving his ends. 232 (220)

4. The resources of Najd are stated to have been strained to the utmost by the recent internecine wars, and Bin Sa'ūd considers that the Oases of Hasa and Katif were always the most profitable possessions of his Wahhabi ancestors. He is anxious therefore to recover the two districts and he proposes that a secret understanding should be arranged between the British Government and himself under which he should be granted British protection from Turkish assaults at sea, in the event of his ever succeeding in driving the Turks, unaided, out of his ancestral dominions. In return for this protection the Amir is willing to bind himself to certain agreements (probably similar to those of the Trucial Chiefs) and to accept a Political Officer to reside at his Court. The details of this secret treaty he wishes to be settled or discussed at an interview which he is ready to give me either in person, or with his brother representing him, at some convenient rendezvous in the desert. Bin Sa'ud is determined to make an effort to obtain possession of Hasa and Katif, for without the additional revenue which he can derive from these tracts, he admits that he is unable to control the tribes who menace the highways of commerce and pilgrimage. He proposes therefore, in the first place, to apply to the Sultan for the Mutasarrif-lik (Governership) of the districts, and to throw off the Turkish yoke as soon as he considers the moment favourable, after establishing himself. If his application is refused, he will invade the districts as soon as he is ready, and having captured them, he will appeal openly to the British Government for protection. If he fails, he will never betray the secret understanding between himself and the Government! Possibly he will not make his attempt, even, for 4 or 5 years more .





253 (221)

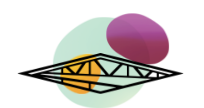
5. Such is the message, and Shaikh Jasim requests that the reply may be given to him only by word of mouth, when he will arrange to forward it on by trusted messenger.

6. I presume that the only answer possible is that while the British and Turkish Governments entertain friendly relations towards each other, it is impossible for the Government of India to enter into any such agreement as the Amir desires. I would like, however, to be permitted to add a warning to the Amir, that if he has never yet involved himself in any direct admission of subordination to the Sultan, as I understand he claims not to have done, he should be careful not to commit himself now unless he decides to abide by the consequences. It is generally believed by the Arabs in Bahrain, that the Turkish Government, finding that they are unable to collect revenue in the two districts and that the people are favourable towards Bin Sa'ūd, are themselves contemplating an invitation to the latter to assume the government in the Sultan's name .

7. With regard to Shaikh Jasim's own health, my Interpreter reports that he appeared considerably stronger than last spring, and that his eyes are so much improved that he is able to attend to all his correspondence himself.

He seemed however to be downcast in mind, which Mr Inamul Hak subsequently learnt was due to the fact that he had invested 80 lakhs of rupees in pearls this season at very high rates, and that he had found recently that he was likely to lose heavily in consequence of the subsequent fall in prices .

I have



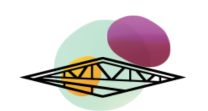
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7. With regard to Shaikh Jasim's own health, my Interpreter reports that he appeared considerably stronger than last spring, and that his eyes are so much improved that he is able to attend to all his correspondence himself.

He seemed however to be downcast in mind, which Mr Inamul Hak subsequently learnt was due to the fact that he had invested 30 lakhs of rupees in pearls this season at very high rates, and that he had found recently that he was likely to lose heavily in consequence of the subsequent fall in prices.

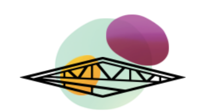
I have



254 (222)

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

[signature] Captain,
Political Agent Bahrain.





253
(223)

Translation of a letter from Shaikh Jasim bin Thani , to Captain F.B.Prideaux ,Political Agent Bahrain .

Dated the 19th of Sha'ban 1324 / 8 th of October 1906

After Compliments

I beg to say that I have need of meeting you at Lusail,even if it be just for a quarter of an hour.I have just two words to say to you personally.

Seal





256 (224)

H.M.'s Consul Basra
to
H.M.'s Chargé d'Affaires
Cons'ple.
No 60. Nov. 10. 1906.

...... from information received at Basra I learn that the people of Kasim asked Sami Pasha to keep one battalion only and send the rest away. Sami Pasha is reported to have said that he must have four, whereupon the matter was referred by both sides to Cons'ple. The Sultan then instructed the Commander of the VI. Army Corps at Bagdad to withdraw all troops from Kassim except two battalions, and in a year's time to reduce the force to one battalion. Orders were sent about a month ago to Sami Pasha to this effect. It is said that there are nine battalions belonging to the VI Army Corps in Kasim, but none are up to full strength. The effective of each battalion is reckoned

at



at about 200 men. It is said the troops are preparing to evacuate Kasim and that the troops sent from Medina will also be withdrawn.

I am also informed that Izzet Pasha received a letter from Sheikh Mubarak a few days ago forwarding £T200 - as the Sheikh had heard the barracks at Basra were still unfinished. The letter was couched in obsequious terms and Izzet Pasha was requested to inform the higher authorities of the Sheikh's further donation.

I have &c.

(sd) [illegible]

No. 15.
Forwarded to His Resident at Bushire with the compliments of the undersigned.

Basra.
Nov. 10. 1906.

[illegible]
H.M. Consul.



257 (225)

O/C

No: 2719 of 1906.

CONFIDENTIAL

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 24th November 1906.

From

Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To

Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
C A L C U T T A.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Foreign Department Telegram No: S.148 dated 13th November 1906 repeating to me the terms of the reply cabled by His Majesty's Secretary of State to the Government of India's reference in connection with my letter No: 2181 dated 16th September 1906.

2. I note that His Majesty's Government adhere to their previous view that our interest must be confined to the coast; and it goes without saying that no steps will be taken without previous sanction to enter into relations with Nejd or to send agents to the interior; but my immediate difficulty is to find a suitable reply to the references made through the local officers by Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit and Sheikh Jasim of Katar on behalf of Bin Saood, references which have in no way been courted but which I cannot leave unanswered without incurring among the Chiefs concerned a reputation for personal negligence or discourtesy, which would be prejudicial to my work in other ways.

As





258 226

As it is obviously advisable that the replies vouchsafed to the references previously reported, as well as to the further one just received from Sheikh Jasim bin Thani which I now enclose, should be authoritative and in terms which would be considered suitable by His Majesty's Government, I shall be grateful for the advice of the Government of India as to the precise language which should be used.

Bahrein No: 500 dated 17th November 1906 and enclosures

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P.Z.C. Major,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





No: 2738 of 1906.

259 (227)

Confidential.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 24th November 1906.

From

Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To

Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
C A L C U T T A.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally noted No: 15 dated 10th November 1906. communication which I have received from His Majesty's Consul Busreh, regarding Nejd affairs.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

PZC Major,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.



260 (228)

Nov. 27th 1906

My dear Knox.

As you may suppose I found your No 451 received yesterday (very interesting) I very much fear that the present Cabinet will have nothing whatever to do with the affairs of Central Arabia, and we shall be lucky if they allow us to avoid the suggestion of personal discourtesy or neglect. by giving some answer at any rate, even though an unfavourable one. You can do no more than you have, namely, assure Sh. Mubarak that his representations are forwarded from here to the proper quarter. You see

23





Post Copy to Major Cox

261 (229)

Telegram. P.

From. The Secretary to the Government of India

in the Foreign Department, Simla,

To. Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,

Political Resident, Persian Gulf, Bushire.

No. S.-148.

Dated the 13th. November 1906.

Reference enclosure para 4 Foreign Department letter 2918-E/A dated 7th September 1904 and telegram dated 23rd January 1905. Following telegram dated 9th November from Secretary of State for India regarding Nejd is repeated for guidance. Begins. With reference to Major Cox's * * * * into relations with Nejd. Ends.

----------@@@@@@@@@@----------





262 (230)

Telegram. P.

From H. M.'s Secretary of State for India, London.

To The Secretary to the Govt. of India in the Foreign Dept., Simla.

Dated the 9th. November 1906.

Recd. the 10th. " "

With reference to Major Cox's letter of 16th. September forwarded with Secretary's letter No. 41, of 11th. October, please see my predecessor's telegrams of 8th. February and December 30th., 1904. His Majesty's Government maintain view that their interest and influence should be confined to coast. No steps should be taken, without my previous sanction, to send Agents into interior or to enter into relations with Nejd.





Confidential.

53/7 V

No. 4483- E.B.

263 (231)

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, with reference to the correspondence ending with his letter No. 2477, dated the 21st October 1906.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 3571 Date 30.NOV.1906 PERSIAN GULF.

Major Ramsay's Diary is dated Aug: I don't think it is any use taking action on it now. File PC.

By order, etc.,

L. Barnes

Foreign Department,

Simla;

The 17 November 1906.

Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir E. Grey, No. 618, dated the 4th September 1906, with enclosures. (Received with letter from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, No. 40, dated the 5th October 1906.)





(Copy)

264 (232)

Asiatic Turkey.

Confidential.

Recd. on 23-10-06.
With Pol. Secy's
Letter, No.40
dated 5-10-1906.

(September) 10
Section I.

(30488). No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.- (Received September 10)

(No. 618. Confidential)

Therapia, September 4, 1906.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 508 of the 24th July, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Baghdad, inclosing copy of the diary of events of interest in his vilayet for the week ended on the 5th ultimo, which he has compiled for the use of the Government of India.

The report that the newly-instituted Hamburg-American line of steamers to the Persian Gulf has already agreed to reduce the usual freight charges of English vessels by 10s. a ton is an important matter for British trade, and paragraph No. 63 of the diary fully bears out

what





265

233

what I stated in my despatch above referred to in regard to the serious character of the competition of the new German Company for the British India Steam Navigation Company, and of the necessity for the latter to improve their present methods of business.

Another item of interest in Major Ramsay's diary is the arrival of Talib Bey, and aide-de-camp of the Sultan of Baghdad, who is charged with a Mission and a decoration for Mitaab, the son of Ibn Reshid of Nejd, who was recently killed in an engagement with the forces of Ibn Saood. This action on the part of the Sultan, together with his decision, reported in my despatch No. 413, Secret and Confidential, of the 18th June, to continue to Mitaab the pay and allowances formerly granted to his father, shows the importance for the Turks of remaining in close relations with the adversary of the powerful Wahabi Emir.

I have, &c.,

(Sd) N. R. O'Conor.





266

(234)

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Acting Consul-General Ramsay to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 59)

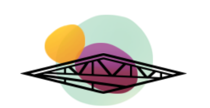
Baghdad, August 6, 1906.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit, for your Excellency's information, a copy of my diary of to-day's date to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have, &c.,

(Sd) J. Ramsay, Major.





267 (235)

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Diary to Government of India for week ending August 5, 1906

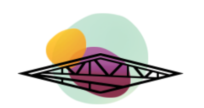
59. I have had an interesting conversation with M. Cugnin, a French engineer, who has been employed to improve irrigation on the Euphrates. He was kind enough to explain his project and show me his plans. The gist of the conversation is given in a Memorandum written by me for the Board of Trade, of which a copy is being sent to the Government of India. I have telegraphed to London an outline of the proposal to buy pumps.

60. Last Sunday being the anniversary of the birth-day of the Shah, the "Comet" was dressed, and I went in full uniform to pay the usual call on the Persian Consul-General. It has been the custom to pay these honours on a Sunday, otherwise I should have declined to do so. The other European nations keep their fête-days on a Sunday when it happens to fall on that date.

61. I have received a post copy of a telegram from the Foreign Department, dated Simla, the 12th July, about a Confidential Report submitted by me. I have not yet received the original, and nothing is known of it at the

telegraph





268 (236)

telegraph office here.

62. One of the leading merchants of Bussorah informs me that the Hamburg-American Line has begun to take cargo for Hamburg and Antwerp at 17s. 6d. a ton, being a reduction of 10s. a ton on the rates recently charged by English lines. The steamers of the Hamburg-American Line do not call at any English port. The merchant who gave me this information said that he thought that this was on acount of some understanding with the English lines that the later should not run to Continental ports. If there is any mutual understanding of this sort, it is difficult to see what need there was for such an immediate and large reduction of freight. It looks rather like an attempt to induce cargo for transhipment to leave London, e.g., the liquorice root, which goes in large quantities to America. This suggestion is not based on any expert opinion (see paragraph 22).

63. As connected with the above paragraph, it may be interesting to note that last night I was talking to the Manager of the Turkish river steamers and to the captain of one of Lynch's steamers. They both said that there had lately been loud complaints of the damage done to cargo carried

by





269 237

by the British India. I believe that an influential member of the Company is at Bussorah making inquiries.

64. I hear that it is proposed to send a regiment of Redifs to a place called Ahsa. Mr. Gaskin says that this is a common name for El Hassa.

65. The recent trouble among the Arabs on the Tigris has been caused by competition between two Sheikhs - Seyhud and Gazban - for a plot of land known as Kumait. The Vali is reported to have given the land to a nominee of Gazban's, who is said to have paid about £ T. 7,000 or £ T. 8,000 in bribes. The result has been that Seyhud attacked the El Azarij, who are partisans of Gazban's, and now Gazban and Seyhud are mobilizing their forces for a general engagement (see paragraph 41).

66. Talib Bay, the aide-de-camp of the Sultan, has brought a decoration for Muti'b, the son and successor of Abdul Aziz-bin-Reshid. A relative of Muti'b's has come to take Talib Bey to Kasim (see paragraph 56).

Baghdad, August 6, 1906.





270 (238)

[*Confidential.*]

No. 2799, dated Bushire, the 2nd (received 12th) December 1906.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In continuation of my two letters marginally noted by last mail, in connection with Nejd affairs, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a further communication which I have since received from the Political Agent, Koweit, reporting the details of a conversation which he has had with Sheikh Mubarak.

Nos. 2719 and 2738, dated 24th November 1906.

Koweit, No. 451, dated 20th November 1906.

The latter's remarks in behalf of Bin Saood's cause, as reported in paragraph 5 of Captain Knox's letter, are a repetition of his former representations, but his subsequent observations regarding the Baghdad Railway question, are of much interest as evidence of the astute concern which he takes in the political situation, and, at the same time, seem to me to bear out the view which I have all along maintained that, in spite of the coquetry with the Turks in which the force of circumstance obliges him periodically to indulge, Sheikh Mubarak has at bottom a genuine conviction that his salvation lies in close adherence to the Christian Power, at present Great Britain, which occupies a predominant position in the northern portion of the Gulf.

No. 451, dated the 20th November 1906.

From—MAJOR S. G. KNOX, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,
To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I have the honour to inform you that I have just returned this morning from a visit to Sheikh Mobarak at which he gave me the following news from Nejd.

2. He said that he had received letters from Bin Saood and from Bin Rashid, and that the former had told him that the Mutessarif with 1,200 men (Syrian troops) and 12 guns had left for Medina on the 15th Ramzan=3rd instant, and that on the first day of Shawal=19th instant, the Amir-ul-Alai (Commandant) with 1,100 Iraq men and 3 guns would return to Iraq.

3. Bin Saood also said that the Turkish authorities were very anxious to leave 200 men in El Kasim, of whom 100 men should remain in Boraida and 100 in Anaiza. To this, however, he and the headmen of El Kasim refused to consent, and eventually it was agreed that small detachments only should remain, *viz.*, 25 men in Boraida and 15 in Anaiza.

4. Bin Saood also said that he holds a paper signed by 80 Turkish Officers to say that they have found Bin Saood a loyal servant of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, who has helped them to all they needed as far as possible; that Nejd is a poor country with an abominable climate, bad water and no supplies which can support Turkish troops.

5. Sheikh Mubarak ended this lengthy recital with comments on the affairs of Al Hassa which he said were in a very bad way, and he suggested that it would be an excellent thing if Bin Saood were to take Al Hassa and Katif, his ancestral property, and that he would then apply for the official protection of His Majesty's Government.

6. To this, I replied that I could make on this proposal no comment whatever, but that, as the Sheikh probably was perfectly well aware, all communications that he made to me were promptly passed on to you for transmission to higher authority who would send such instructions as they thought fit and that it was idle for me to speculate as to what views such authority would take.



7. The Sheikh then mentioned that a large number of people at Kerbala had applied to His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Baghdad for protection, and that the Muntafik country round Amara between the two Vilayets of Baghdad and Basrah was full of revolt, and that the railway would never reach the sea nor be prosperous unless it was in British control from Baghdad to the sea, and that the Sultan could draw the profit of it. He said that the Germans had been playing with the Porte, and remarked that it was England and her warships that had saved Constantinople at the close of the last Russo-Turkish War.

8. The Sheikh told me that he had no exact information as to the Turkish casualties, in Al Hassa, but that the Ajman declared that they had destroyed two troops (طابورين) and taken away their arms, and that more than half the Al Hassa garrison had been killed. He said that undoubtedly Fahad bin Hithlain, the Ajman Chief, now in Koweit, had captured a gun and had brought in two mules and many donkeys for sale in Koweit and would send in more.

9. Fahad bin Hithlain came to see me on the 19th instant, and with him an old and influential Sheikh of the Ajman, named Salim bin Muhammad of the Al Hadi Section. The Chief is a fine handsome young man of about 30 years of age. He looked lazy and goodnatured and talked but little, but he gave one the impression that he would be a leader of men, fierce and vindictive, if he were roused to action.

10. These two both exaggerated Sheikh Mubarak's account of their victory and said that the El Hassa townsmen with the soldiers had now tasted their vengeance and were ready to agree to any terms. They had offered to write off all claims for blood-shed and to pay up all arrears of allowances due to the Ajman Sheikhs, and especially sued that they might redeem the gun (offering for it T.£2,000) and to pay double prices for all arms and mules. Fahad refused to sell the gun, saying that he would send it either to Mubarak or to Bin Saood. The two Chiefs offered me a warm welcome if I came into their country, which begins about three days south of Koweit.

11. The Turkish withdrawal from Nejd, coupled with the news from Al Hassa, appears to have had an effect, very unfortunate for them, on public opinion in these parts and one might hazard the assertion that Sheikh Mubarak knows more than he told me about possible complications in Al Hassa and the Muntafik country.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 3103 F. D.—15-12-1906.—57.—J. N. S.



239

271

Telegram.

TO , Foreign , Calcutta & Camp .

No: 511 , dated 2-12-06 .

****

(P). DEMI-OFFICIAL.

Pending arrival by to-day's mail of further communications on the same subjects please postpone consideration of my letter No: 2719 dated November 24th and Grey's No: 564 dated November the 26th.

Addressed Foreign Calcutta.

Sent to Foreign with Viceroy, Viceroy's Camp.

(Cox).





272 (240)

Paraphrase of telegram H.M.'s Consul Basra to H.M.'s Chargé d'Affaires Constple. No. 84. Dec. 7. 1906.

A letter dated Nov 12 has been received from Hassa. According to the account given it appears that Arab tribes attacked the town on Oct. 22. and engaged the Turkish troops. The Turkish loss was considerable in men, mules and rifles and Arabs captured a cannon. A village called Shiqeq, which belongs to the Senior Department, was plundered and burnt. Money was paid to the tribes to retire, the captured cannon returned, and peace restored.

No 16. Forwarded to H.M.'s Resident Bushire with the compliments

[illegible]



of the undersigned.

Basra.
Dec. 7. 1908

[illegible]
HMs Consul.



d/c

Confidential.

No. 3051 of 1906.

273 (241)

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 16th December 1906.

From

Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To

Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department.
C A L C U T T A.

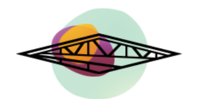
Sir,

With reference to paragraph 8 of Political Agent Koweit's letter No: 451 dated 20th November 1906 which formed an enclosure to this office letter No: 2799 dated 2nd December 1906, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the marginally noted communication which I have received from H.B.M's Consul, Bussorah, regarding disturbances in Hassa.

> Paraphrase of a telegram No: 84 dated 7th December 1906, from H.B.M's Consul Bussorah, to H.B.M's Charge d'Affaires Constantinople.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant.

P. Z. Cox Major,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





274 (242)

H.B.M's Consul Basra to H.B.M's Chargé d'Affaires Constant-tinople No.82, Dec.8 1906.

Sir,

With reference to my tel.84 of Dec.7, I have received the following report regarding the recent troubles in El Hassa.

A letter from Hassa dated Oct.29 1322 (Nov.12 1906), received here by Mahmoud Bey Tabour Agassi of Hassa, states thattwenty days ago the town of Hassa was surrounded day and night by Arabs of the El Ajman and other Bedouin tribes in consequence of the murder of Abdullah Bin Jaber a merchant of Hassa . The townsmen fled , 8000 men of Hassa, 600 infan-try and 200 mounted men united and attacked the tribes. During the engagement which followed 2 lieutenants and 72 infantry were killed and 57 men wounded on the Turkish side and 85 mules, 125 rifles and one gun were captured by the Arabs. A village named Shigegg, belonging to the Seniye Dep--artment, situated about two hours from Hassa was plundered and burnt by the tribes and many villagers were killed and wounded.

In the Hakamiye garden 4 soldiers were killed and 2 sergeants of the gendarmerie wounded and 16 rifles were cap--tured. The inhabitants of other villages gave money and dates to the Arabs to leave them alone and so escaped.



The tribes then made peace with the people of Hassa and on receiving 700 rials (£70) restored the captured gun.

I have etc.

(sd.) F. E. Crow.

No. 17

Forwarded to H.B.M's Resident at Bushire

with the compliments of the undersigned.

Basra Dec. 11 1906.

[signature]
H.M's Consul



243

275

No. 993 of 1906.

From

The Offg: Political Resident in Turkish Arabia
& Acting British Consul General,
Baghdad.

To

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf
& H.B.M's Consul General for Fars
Bushire.

British Residency & Consulate General,
Baghdad, 10th December, 1906.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose for your information an extract from my diary to the Government of India for the week ending 10th December 1906.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

[signature]

Offg. Political Resident in Turkish Arabia and
H. B. M's Consul General,
Baghdad.





276

(244)

Extract from Political Diary of the Baghdad Residency for the week ending 10th December 1906.

(171). According to what is I believe the official account the Turkish troops are returning to Baghdad from Kasim. The unofficial account which has reached me is somewhat different. The story, as told to me, by a man who has fairly good sources of information, is as follows:- Ibn Sa'ud wrote from Riadh to the Ajman, Beni Khalid, Beni Hajir and Manasir tribes to turn the Turkish troops out of El Hassa. The Arabs summoned the Turkish troops and told them they must either fight for their existence or leave the country, as the Sultan's troops had no business in El Hassa, which did not belong to him. A fight took place in which 85 Turkish officers and soldiers were killed, and 200 wounded. The troops were forced to give up their arms and ammunition, and to leave the country viâ Medina.

As regards Kassim the same informant tells me the follow--ing story:- Ibn Sa'ud wrote to the Mutair and Utaibu tribes to fight Sami Pasha or remove him and his troops from Kasim. The troops elected to go and (after giving up their arms and guns?) they went towards Medina. It is said that 1700 men recruited in Irak have been lost.

The same informant tells me that at present Ibn Sa'ud is on good terms both with Mut'ib and with Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit.





277 (245)

Telegram.

TO , Consul , Basra . (Crew) .

No: , 539 , dated 20-12-06 .

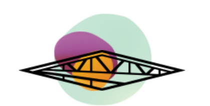
(P). Please deliver following to Sphinx........Begins.....
Please refer to Consul's telegram dated 17th to me on the subject of your visit to Katif. I propose to consult the Govt: of India as to the terms of the reply. Have you any suggestions to make ?

Secondly. Please telegraph if any Turkish transport is expected to leave for Bahrein or has already done so.

(Cox).

PZC

23/12/06





278 (246)

Telegram.

FROM , Consul , Basra . (Crow) .

No: Nil , dated 22-12-06 . (Recd 8.10 a.m)

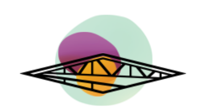
....

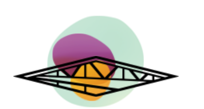
Please refer to your telegram dated December the 20th. H.M.S. Sphinx has just arrived.

Arrangements are being made as usual for the relief of the time expired men at Hassa and two (two) battalions will in all probability soon leave.

(Crow).

This portion as received was unintelligible.





279 (247)

Telegram.

TO , Consul , Basra . (Crow).

No: 549 , dated 22-12-06 .

****

(P). Please refer to your telegram dated December 22nd. Please repeat the groups from the word "Hassa" to the end as they are unintelligible.

(Cox).

FROM , Consul , Basra .

No: Nil , dated 22-12-06 . (recd 11.5 a.m)

****

(P). On December the 22nd one battalion left for Hassa by the " John Scott " .

(Crow).

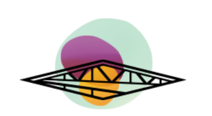
FROM , Consul , Basra .

No: Nil , dated 23-12-06 . (recd 8.55 a.m)

****

(P). Please refer to your telegram dated December 22nd. " by English steamer named John-o-Scott.

(Crow).





53 V / 7

280 (248)

Confidential.

No. 4737 E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 3900-E.B., dated 2nd October 1906.

By order, &c.,

R. E. Holland

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,

Fort William;

The 12th December 1906.

Communication from Sir N. O'Conor to Sir E. Grey, No. 561, dated 15th August 1906. (Received with letter from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, No. 40, dated 5th October 1906.)





281 (249)

(*Letter received on 23rd October 1906, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office, No. 40, dated the 5th October 1906.*

ASIATIC TURKEY. [August 20.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 3.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 561.)

Therapia, August 15, 1906.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 523 of the 31st ultimo, reporting the conclusion of the court-martial and the sentences passed upon the persons accused of complicity in the attack on Messrs. Lynch's depôt at Maghil and in the murder of Mr. Glanville, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, giving an account of interviews which he had with Medjid Bey, the Acting Vali of the province, during his visit to Bussorah, and in the course of which he had pressed for a settlement of the Maghil case and for the punishment of the persons who had attacked the house of the British-Indian Joseph Pollock.

Mr. Crow also discussed with the Acting Vali the attacks recently made by rebellious Arab tribes at Amara on the vessels of the Tigris and Euphrates Steam Navigation Company and the necessity for steps being taken to preserve order.

I propose to make fresh representations on this subject to the Sublime Porte, and will enquire when the appointment of a capable and strong Vali for the province of Bussorah may be expected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 47.)

Bussorah, July 17, 1906.

Sir,

Medjid Bey, Vali of Bagdad and Acting Vali of Bussorah, arrived here on the 10th instant. I visited his Excellency by appointment on the 13th instant and took the opportunity to press for a settlement of the Maghil case and for the punishment of the persons who attacked the house of the British-Indian Joseph Pollock and wounded him.

In regard to the Maghil case, I drew his Excellency's attention to the apparent inability of the local authorities to catch the remaining culprits, and remarked that, although orders had repeatedly been given to effect their arrest, the police were either too timid or too corrupt to execute them.

His Excellency admitted the possibility of both these suppositions. I also observed that the proceedings of the court-martial were unnecessarily delayed, and urged that the culprits already under arrest should be tried at once. His Excellency remarked that it was difficult for him to interfere with the working of the court-martial, which was subject to military regulations, and admitted of no interference on the part of the civil authorities. I replied that the business of the court-martial was not to catch, but to try, the offenders; and that,

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if the police and civil authorities failed to find them and hand them over for trial, all proceedings were inevitably blocked. I therefore asked his Excellency to take stringent measures for the arrest of the culprits so that the court-martial could do its work. I also remarked that I had received trustworthy information that the majority of the suspected persons were still on Ottoman territory.

I then described to His Excellency in some detail the attack on the British-Indian's house as witnessed by Europeans from the neighbouring roofs, and I laid some stress on the fact that the attack occurred in the European quarter, near the Consulate, and that I myself had been roused by the shooting and alarm. I pointed out that the patrol, some soldiers, and the marine guard at the arsenal were all present, and neither rendered assistance nor attempted to catch the thieves; that one of the offenders had been subsequently recognized by Joseph Pollock, that he was a sapper in the Imperial army, and that, in spite of my representations, his immediate superior, a captain in the artillery, continued to prevent his arrest. I pressed for his immediate imprisonment. His Excellency replied that he had cognizance of the matter, and would give it his attention. I have since learnt that the man has been given up and imprisoned.

I then suggested that I should give his Excellency a written statement of our complaints, to enable him to examine and settle them, and I again impressed upon him the necessity of remedying the inefficiency of the police, as it was hopeless to expect the local authorities to do their duty as long as the police systematically evaded orders and connived at the escape of criminals. His Excellency promised to consider the question and to attend to our requirements.

I then touched on the disturbances at Amara, and urged on his Excellency the necessity of protecting our steamers from interference on the river. I remarked that Gadban fired on them with the object of eliciting our interference, and in order to put pressure on the Ottoman Government. The Vali replied that, if that were the case, he had not gained much, as the land in dispute had been given neither to Gadban nor to Seyhood, but to an independent party.

According to my information, this statement is false, as the Vali's dealings with Gadban are notorious, and the lessee of Kumeid is stated to be a mere nominee of Gadban's, who paid Medjid Bey over 4,000 liras to keep the land out of Seyhood's hands. I said, however, that I was glad to hear he had found a satisfactory conclusion, and I hoped that it would last; but as the attack on the "Khalifeh" occurred on Gadban's land he was primarily responsible for it, and ought to be punished, and I asked His Excellency whether he proposed to take any steps to call him to account for it. The Vali replied that it was not easy to fix the blame or to find the actual aggressors. I said I did not see the necessity of that, but I thought, on public grounds alone, that the Arab Chief, in whose district the attack occurred, should be held personally responsible. Was the Ottoman Government with its troops and its administrative resources unable to keep the Arabs in order, or to punish a man in Gadban's position? His Excellency replied that it could no doubt be done, but it was a wild country, and the Arabs a wild people. He seemed disinclined to move in the matter; and in view of my information regarding the line he had taken, I thought it useless to pursue the subject.

His Excellency stated that he thought it was a great mistake ever to have separated the Vilayets of Bagdad and Bussorah. I told him I could not agree with him. Bussorah was an important commercial centre, and its affairs could not be administered properly without a resident Vali. I said he ought to be a civilian with some knowledge of trade requirements, to which he agreed, and added that the local military authority ought to be directly subject to his orders.

I forwarded to the Vali yesterday three Memoranda, dealing with:—

(*a*) The Maghil case;
(*b*) The attack on the British-Indian's house; and
(*c*) The theft of property still unrecovered from the premises of my dragoman's brother-in-law, of which 131 liras belonged to my dragoman, Naoum Abbo.

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The Vali returned my visit to-day, and in the course of conversation stated that exaggerated reports about the disturbances on the river had been sent to Constantinople. He said the Porte had telegraphed that the "Medjidie" was lost, trade interrupted, and sailing-vessels were being attacked and plundered on the river. I replied that grave fears had been entertained for the safety of the "Medjidie," as she left at a disturbed time, and no timely news of her arrival at Amara could be obtained, owing to the telegraph lines having been cut. Steps had, however, been taken in time to check the disorders, and she reached her destination safely. I said: "Sailing craft had undoubtedly been attacked." He replied: "Perhaps some time ago, but not recently.' I said: "Not very long ago," and the result has been that the Nakhodas were scared and afraid to proceed, and had detained their ships at different points of the river. Some sixty to eighty with grain and liquorice had waited a long time at Amara. As long as merchants could not get grain from up-river, owing to the unrest, they were prevented from loading their ships and could not fulfil their contracts. Under these conditions, trade was certainly interrupted. Now, however, owing to the steps taken, and the assurances given, the evil had been removed and the situation had temporarily improved. Sailing-vessels were coming down freely with guards on boards. I said I hoped the improvement would continue, and the Vali laughed. He gave me no further assurance on the subject, but asked the date of the arrival and departure of the "Medjidie" this week. I think he is alive to the necessity of taking steps to preserve order. He has evidently received his instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

P. S.—July 19, 1905.—On the 19th instant the Vali wrote me an urgent letter to the effect that the Grand Vizier, at the instance of the Embassy, was asking about an attack alleged to have been made on two English steamers. His Excellency asked me to inform him at once of the names of the steamers, and to state where, how, and by whom they had been attacked, in order that he might arrest and punish the aggressors. I wrote in reply to say that the British vessels attacked were the "Medjidie" and the "Khalifeh." That on the night of the 12th May the "Medjidie" was surrounded by 100 Arabs, and her progress impeded about 15 miles below Ezra's tomb. As for the "Khalifeh" as his Excellency was aware, and has had been stated in my letter No. 73 of the 16th June to the Vilayet, the attack on that vessel occurred on the 30th May near Nehr Ariz, that the author of these attacks was Gadban, Sheikh of the Beni-Lam, and that no further attacks on British vessels had been reported to me since.

The Vali leaves for Nasryeh on the 20th instant, to-morrow.

F. E. C.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C408 F. D.—21-11-06.—35.—35 H. A. W.





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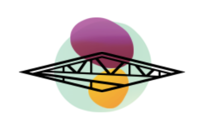
Dec 27. 1906

My dear Prideaux

On receipt of your demi-official letter No 545 dated 16th December , I made a reference to Busserah and learnt that the " John Scott " a British Steamer was leaving (and subsequently left) Busserah for Hasса , with one Battalion and that another battalion was expected to follow . In October last I addressed Government regarding the parallel case of considerable forces of Turkish troops entering Koweit by land en route from Nejd ; I have not yet had a reply to this reference , so I think I had better wait another week and make sure from your diary whether or not the"John Scott" does as you expect , before reportin to Go--vernment on the subject . I quite agree with you as to the inconvenience of the prodedure as well as the unjustifiabl-lity of it .

Yours sincerely
P. Z. Cox

V





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[*Confidential.*]

No. 29, dated Bushire, the 4th (received 15th) January 1907.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

News-letter from Political Agent, Koweit, dated 25th December 1906.
Telegram from His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah, dated 31st December 1906.

In continuation of my letter No. 2799, dated 2nd December 1906, I have the honour to forward copies of the communications marginally noted regarding the exodus of Turkish troops from Kasim.

2. The Government of India have already learnt from the enclosures to my letter No. 3051, dated 16th December 1906, and the previous report alluded to therein, of the difficulties in which the Turkish garrison of Al Hassa recently found themselves; and the incidence of these simultaneous set-backs, added to the prevalent knowlege of their want of success in Yemen cannot fail both greatly to depreciate the prestige of the Porte in Central Arabia and to strengthen the confidence of Bin Saood, of which mention has frequently been made of late, in his ability to make a clean sweep of Turkish troops from his particular sphere.

Dated Camp Wara, the 25th December 1906.

From—MAJOR S. G. KNOX, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,

To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Some interesting news reached me yesterday by a lucky chance. I think I have already told you of one Turkish soldier who came into my camp. Yesterday we got another who still wears a few rags of uniform but had no rifle nor ammunition. This is his account of his adventures. He reached Safa wells with the other soldiers but a few hours out he fell ill, buried his rifle and lay down by it. He was picked up with his rifle by some townsmen who brought him along on their camels as far as Gara, the plateau on the far side of the Shaq about opposite Subaihiya. There they took his rifle, bound him and left him to die. A passing Bedouin unbound him, gave him food and drink and set him on his way again. He was eventually found by Jafir, one of my sowars and brought in. He is a native of Moosul and is accompanying my Camp into Koweit.

About tea time in came Misfir, an Ajman Bedouin, whom I enlisted as sowar when I formed my camel escort and never saw again. He got leave to hunt for his Thalool and wandered up to Nejd where Bin Saood chose the old gentleman, a well known guide, to act as rafiq to the Turkish soldiers and sent him down to Koweit paying him reals thirty-five for his services. He was 25 days on the road and started with them from Boraida. He reckons the number of Turkish soldiers who came at from 7—800. They had six guns with them, two large and four small. Their transport was about 2,000 camels. They got 700 camels from Anaiza and about 800 from Boraida and about 700 from Zilfi. They were all the property of townsmen and were commandeered by Bin Saood's orders, but hire was paid in advance. Twelve reals per camel was paid for the journey which was cheap enough. I suppose it was all they could screw out of the Turks and the people were only too glad to see El Kasim quit of them. Misfir knows that only 8 soldiers were left in Anaiza and he thinks the same quantity in Boraida.

Sheikh Mubarak turned the soldiers off to their left and would not permit them to enter Koweit nor even Jahra but sent Abdul Aziz bin Salim bin Badar with provisions out for them.

Misfir gave me also the following details about Nejd affairs. The Amir of Boraida is Khalid bin Abdulla Abul Khail, who is a cousin of Salehul Mohanna, the ex-Amir who, Misfir assures me, is not dead but still in prison under Bin Saood's orders. Misfir tells me that he has spoken with the man who supplies him with food and drink. Saleh's death was reported by me



some time ago. The term Abul Khail appears to be an alternative for Al Mohanna. I have never heard it before. The Amir of Anaiza is Abdul Aziz us Salaim. He was appointed by the townsmen of Anaiza while Khalid bin Abdulla of Boraida is a nominee of Bin Saood. It appears, according to Misfir, that no Turkish representative of standing has been left in either of the towns and that the soldiers are under the orders of the two Amirs.

Telegram, dated the 31st December 1906.

From—F. E. CROW, Esq., His Majesty's Consul, Basrah,
To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

Please refer to my telegram No. 79. On December the 28th 900 more men arrived from Kassim, thus making out of the seven battalions a total of 1,050. They are in a miserable condition. Sami Pasha, I am informed, left for Medina and there remain in Kassim only 26 soldiers.

Addressed Constantinople. Repeated Bushire.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 3745 F. D.—22-1-1907—57—S. B.



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Telegram.

FROM , Crew , Basra .

Wds 23 , dated 14-1-07 .

(P). On Januaty the 12th 80 soldiers left by the John o Scott for Hassa and 600 by the Mohamadi.

(Crew).





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(*Confidential.*)

No. 157, dated Bushire, the 20th (received 29th) January 1907.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have the honour to refer to my letter No. 2438, dated 14th October 1906, in which I ventured to suggest certain inconvenient aspects of the inclination evinced by the Turks to make use of Koweit, without reference to Sheikh Mubarak, as a base or channel for the ingress and egress of their troops to and from Nejd.

2. In the same connection, I beg to attach extracts from recent news-letters from the Political Agents at Koweit and Bahrein, for the information of the Government of India.

Political Agent, Bahrein, to Resident, No. 545, dated 16th December 1906.
Political Agent, Koweit, to Resident, dated 23rd December 1906.

In the particular case mentioned by Captain Prideaux, on receiving his letter I took steps forthwith to find out from Basrah what foundation there was for the report current at Bahrein and to ascertain the probable movements of the S.S. *John Scott* which had been chartered to convey the troops; and as she ended in proceeding direct to Katif, it was not necessary to trouble Government with a reference; but in regard to the general question involved, I share Captain Prideaux's opinion, and in view of the fact recently reported, that the Porte has issued instructions to the local officials at Basrah to treat Koweit and Bahrein as integral portions of the Ottoman Empire, I shall be glad to be favoured with the views of Government on the subject.

No. 545, dated the 16th December 1906.

From—CAPTAIN F. B. PRIDEAUX, I.A., Political Agent, Bahrein,
To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have just heard that a Turkish transport is expected here in two or three days' time, and that it is proposed to land the troops here for conveyance in sailing boats to their destinations—Katif, Ojair and Doha, or perhaps only one or two of these places. In any case, it is believed that the steamer will not go to any of the mainland ports herself. I hear also that she will fire two guns on her arrival here, whether as a salute to the Sheikh or to let Katif know of her arrival, I cannot say.

This procedure (landing the troops) it seems to me is only justifiable when the port is a component part of the Turkish Empire, and would not be tolerated in any other circumstances except after special diplomatic correspondence and the obtaining of the Ruler's permission.

It is not likely that the Turks will formally apply to Sheikh Esa for sanction, nor will it be regular for him to accord it direct. It seems to me that the landing of a considerable body from a troopship is very different to booking small parties by the ordinary mail-steamer and allowing them to tranship here.

Dated the 23rd December 1906.

From—MAJOR S. G. KNOX, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,
To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

A Turkish soldier or hanger on turned up yesterday at my camp. He is one of a large body that passed not very far from us and we have seen other stragglers. It appears that a body of about 1,000 is moving down from Nejd, and I hear that Sheikh Mubarak, who is in camp at Jehra, has sent men out to divert them in his direction *and not to allow them to enter the town.* My friend, who has come to my camp, tells me that the larger party of troops were



those who returned to Medina and that it is the smaller division who are returning to Baghdad. He says that the Baghdad force was originally much the larger, but that, while only 100 men were actually killed in battle, 2,000 died of disease and starvation. He himself, though he looks healthy and well fed, was in a pretty deplorable state of destitution. He has no boots or shoes and only one garment—a coarse brown overcoat very tattered. One leg was badly swollen and the other foot had double blisters. I operated and dressed his blisters and am giving him food and lodging until we leave, but two days' rest will probably set him up and fit him to get to Koweit.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 3968 F. D.—1-2-1907—57—G. R.



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